

WARREN
MAGAZINE



EERIE
#93

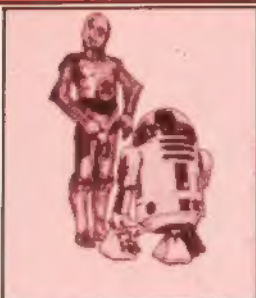
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EERIE

JUNE 1978

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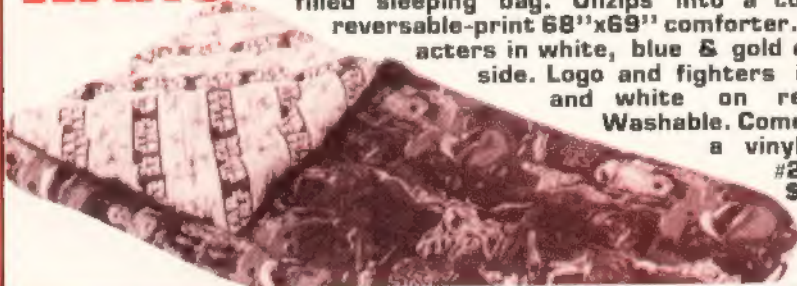
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EERIE

CONTENTS **ISSUE No. 93** **JUNE 1978**

4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE Chuck Burger showed a copy of the cover of a VAMPI comic to his mother and asked if it was "obscene". Her answer will amuse you. Brian Caden questions the seriousness of DuBay when he dialogs several very odd phrases for a band of Vikings.

5 ROOK: STRANGE PLACES 2 Organ Lo had traveled across time and space to fight beside his hero, The Rook. When it appeared as if they would finally meet on the mud-covered street of a western town in 1879, ironically, they'd be on opposite sides of the law!

16 THE COMIC BOOKS One of the great, not to mention controversial, innovations of the comics field was the Classics Illustrated series. Some looked upon them as instant book reports, others as inspiration to read the novel. Here is a brief history and, sadly, an obituary.

17 HONOR AND BLOOD The Family Vrykola had a reputation for villainy and even for vampirism. It was a heritage they could not escape and a legacy they dared not pass on. But they did survive, from the seventeenth century to this very day, with a family tree rooted in blood!

27 MOONSHADOW: KINGDOM The assassin who never failed tricked Death into granting him twenty million lifetimes only to find Death a poor loser. Before him was the Changer and a girl who withered from his touch. Their purpose: to see that Moons spent his lives in madness!

35 THE EINSTEIN FACTOR He was lost in the middle of the ocean, waiting on a strange little island for rescue. He was sure they were looking for him; after all, he was a hero. But what was taking so long? He was in plain sight. The worms had found him easily enough!

45 JONES: SLIME CREATURE Abelmar Jones and Stanley were on the prowl along the veldt of the asphalt jungle, the section known as Harlem. They were searching for anything they could steal. After their last caper they believed they'd seen it all till along came Slimy.

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Dear Cousin Eerie,

In EERIE #91, "Elijah Arnold" was great sci-fi and also a gruesome revelation; the art by Leo Duronano was his best yet.

Gonzalo Mayo's artwork shows he may be your best artist; he really illustrates and the conclusion to "Francesca" wouldn't have been as great without his touch.

"Moonshadow" was the sort of horror story I relish; strong antagonists and protagonists meeting in alien landscapes, with the mysterious elements of existence in focus. Bob Toomey scripted well and Jose Ortiz continued to entertain me with his special way of graphic horror.

STEPHEN PIROS
Edison, N.J.

"The Incredible Saga of Sludge the Unconquerable (sic), Helga the Damned, and Marmadrake the Magnificent" in EERIE #91, tried to encompass too much.

Any one of the three stories was worth a separate episode of its own; together, they just got in each other's way. Nor was there any attempt to tie them together into a whole.

Instead, events were wrapped up rather suddenly toward the end, as if Bill Dubay just realized that he was running out of space. The Bishop Dane segment especially, was concluded in a rush. How did Restin and Manners know where, in the past or future, he had gone?

Of course, on second thought, it shouldn't have been too hard to find the only band of Vikings in the whole Middle Ages who spoke modern Norwegian . . . though I'm at a loss to explain what such expressions as "Where is the men's restroom?" have to do with the plot of the story.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.



"Moonshadow" appears that it will be another interesting series! His talk with "death" was something else! While in the past I have found Jose Ortiz' style too scratchy-looking and unclear for me to enjoy, I'm getting used to it.

In relation to the situation that came up with "Francesca," I think that an effort should be made when scheduling such multi-part stories to see to it that all parts are run in succession.

HENRY R. KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.



Obviously, Henry, this would be ideal, and we do run series in sequence as often as possible. Occasionally, however, we are forced to wait to conclude an episode and, like the people on T.V., we're forced to comment that "we're experiencing technical difficulties . . . please stand by." It shouldn't happen too often.

Joe Brancatelli's article on Kiss was dynamite—it should have been blown to shreds!

The Kiss comic book had good art and a fair story. The band does have talent, much talent.

Kiss has taken us away from the crummy sound of disco which has been plugged in our ears for years. Kiss' aim is to let their fans fantasize, and Kiss puts fantasy on stage quite well.

TIM PICKETT
Booneville, Ms.

I am happy to say that EERIE #91 was jolly good! The Rook episode was terrific especially when there were three adventures in one story. I am glad to see Kate & January return in this tale!

When reading the letters from a couple of readers opposing nudity in this magazine, I agreed with Gordon Rhodes. Please do not overdo nudity in EERIE.

PAUL GOMPERTZ
New York, N.Y.

On the subject of nudity in Warren comics, why not? Nudity in EERIE, CREEPY and VAMPIRELLA is done in good taste. When my mom saw the cover of VAMPI #67, she said it was NOT obscene. (She said to keep it out of her sight, but it was not obscene). Gordon Rhodes sounds like a man who would read a novel to find the good parts then condemn it.

Please, keep nudity in. I am not a sex fiend, if I want obscene matter, I'll buy a skin book. If I want entertainment and art, I'll buy Warren magazines.

CHUCK BURGER
Parma, Oh.

I enjoyed issue #91, so I'll let the other readers comment on their favorites in detail, and just make a comment on the Rook series.

I really enjoy the colorful lingo used by Rook's grandpa. It really gives the old man a special character.

Being that the Rook has traveled to the Alamo and a typical western town, how about having an episode where his "appearing" changes history. You can have a large area to write about, so "can" the tales about robots and aliens for a while. Let the Rook do his thing—time travel!!!

EDWARD JOHN WOJCIK
Detroit, Mich.

Don Maitz cover on EERIE #91 was superb! Then I turn to the letters page and find "Art freedom or pornography?" Please don't start that old controversy again! I thought that was settled years ago.

Getting back to the magazine itself, "Elijah Arnold and the Angel's Egg" was well done both art- and storywise, and "Moonshadow" looks very interesting.

"Francesca," however, was utter garbage! After a very intriguing opening episode, the second half of the story deteriorated so badly it was pathetic! Are you sure Bruce Jones wrote it?

KIERAN A. DIAMOND
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Cousin Eerie,
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N.Y. 10016

IT ALL BEGAN ON AN INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE WORLD ON THE FAR, FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY. IT WAS THERE THAT AN EVEN MORE INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE BEING DWELLED, HAILING TO THE UNLIKELY NAME OF **ORGAN LO!**

SMALLER AND MORE FRAIL THAN HIS STYLISHLY SMALL AND FRAIL PEERS, ORGAN WAS A **DREAMER...** A MISFIT OF TIME AND SPACE. HIS GREATEST DESIRE TO EMULATE HIS IDOL... THE GALLANT ADVENTURER OF EARTH, **RESTIN DANE...**

The ROOK™



FOR MONTHS ON END, ORGAN MONITORED THE DEEDS OF HIS DAUNTLESS HERO... ENRAPTURED WITH THE JOY OF AN OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC **FAN...**

THEN CAME THE DAY WHEN FATE SMILED BENIGNLY UPON THE LITTLE MAN-LIKE BEING... AND GIFTED HIM WITH A TRIP ACROSS THE COSMOS!



THROUGH THE SCIENTIFIC MAGICKS OF A TIME AND SPACE TRANSPORTER, ORGAN WAS WHISKED TO EARTH'S RESPLENDENT **PAST...**

VISIONS OF GLORY MOMENTARILY FLOODED HIS SHALLOW MIND, AS ORGAN IMAGINED HIMSELF IN ADVENTURES AT HIS IDOL'S SIDE.

BUT HIS DREAMS WERE SHATTERED BY THE HARSH REALITIES OF THE FRONTIER...! AND BY A COLD-HEARTED NAG NAMED **GRANNY FILCHER...**



ORGAN SOON FOUND HIMSELF IN DEBT TO THE GAINFUL OLD GIRL... TO THE SUM OF APPROXIMATELY **EIGHTEEN MILLION DOLLARS!**

IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A PAYMENT, SHE CLAIMED... FOR THE GOOD DEED OF KEEPING THE ALIEN OUT OF **TROUBLE...**



PART TWO STRANGERS IN THE STRANGEST PLACES!

BUT TO THE GOOD FOLK OF THE OLD WESTERN TOWN... ORGAN WAS **MORE** TROUBLE THAN THEY COULD MANAGE...

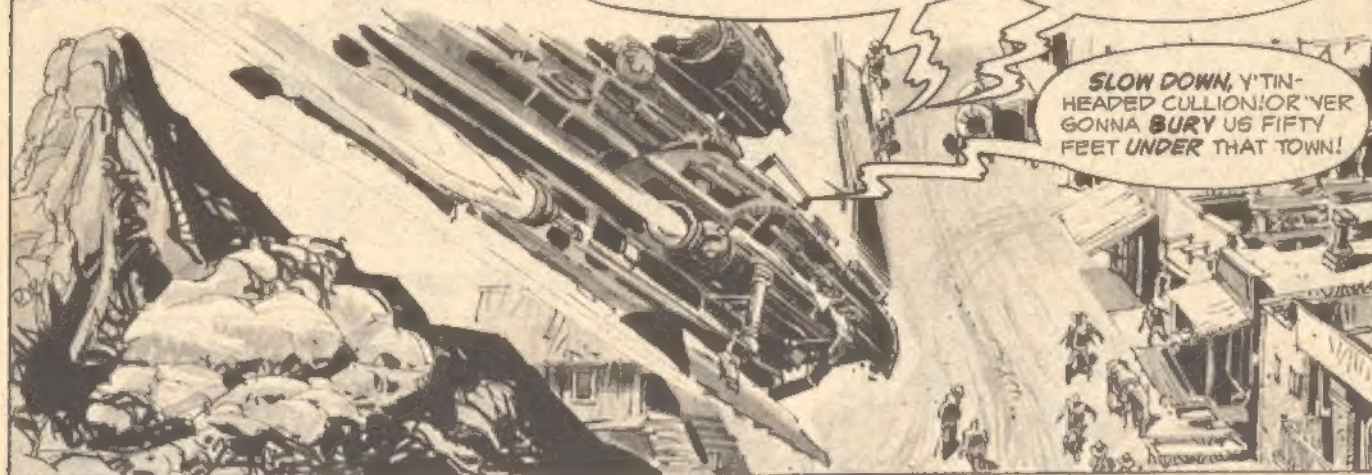
TO PAY HIS DEBT, ORGAN TOOK THEIR FUNDS... AND FORCED THEM TO ABANDON THEIR HOMES IN POVERTY! THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR THEM IN RED GAP, THEY CLAIMED... BUT THE SCOURGE OF THE DREAD **ORGAN LO!**

BUT WHETHER THEY KNEW IT OR NOT...**HELP** WAS ON THE WAY...! IN THE FORM OF A THUNDERING SKY CRAFT...THE LIKE OF WHICH NO ONE IN 1879, HAD EVER BEFORE **SEEN...**!

OH!GOD! CLEMENTINE! D-DO Y-**SEE** IT UP THERE...COMIN' OUTTA THE CLOUDS!?

IT...IT'S GOD KNOWS **WHAT** IT IS! BUT AT THE SPEED IT'S COMIN' IT'S GONNA KILL US **ALL!**

SLOW DOWN, Y'TIN-HEADED CULLION!OR Y'ER GONNA **BURY** US FIFTY FEET UNDER THAT TOWN!



NOW GRANDFATHER...YOU KNOW THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM! MY ROBOT MANSERVANT IS THE **SAFEST** DRIVER IN THE WORLD!

Y'FUMBLE BRAINED IDJIT! THIS TIN-PLATED TURKEY IS THE **ONLIEST** DRIVER IN THE WORLD! AN THAT'S ONLY CAUSE DEATH BOXES LIKE THESE AIN'T EVER BEEN **INVENTED** YET!

THIS "DEATH BOX," AS YOU SO JOCARLY PUT IT...IS PROBABLY THE ONLY THING THAT WILL STOP THE TERRIBLE BEAST MR. FEATHER* HAS TOLD US OF! IT'S A GOOD THING WE'D COVERED IT IN THE **ROOK CAVE!**

*SEE LAST ISSUE, WHEN BANJO FEATHER, BISHOP DANE'S LONG-TIME FOE, TOLD ALL!—**DUSE**

BUT SINCE THE DREAD BEAST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AROUND...PERHAPS WE'D BEST **EMERGE** AND CONVINCE THE FEW PEOPLE WHO REMAIN IN TOWN THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO **FEAR!**



RIGHT, BOY! ALL WE GOTTA DO IS **SHOW** OURSELVES AND THEY'LL SEE RIGHT AWAY THAT WE'RE **FRIENDLY!**

I SAY, GIRS...! **GREETINGS!**

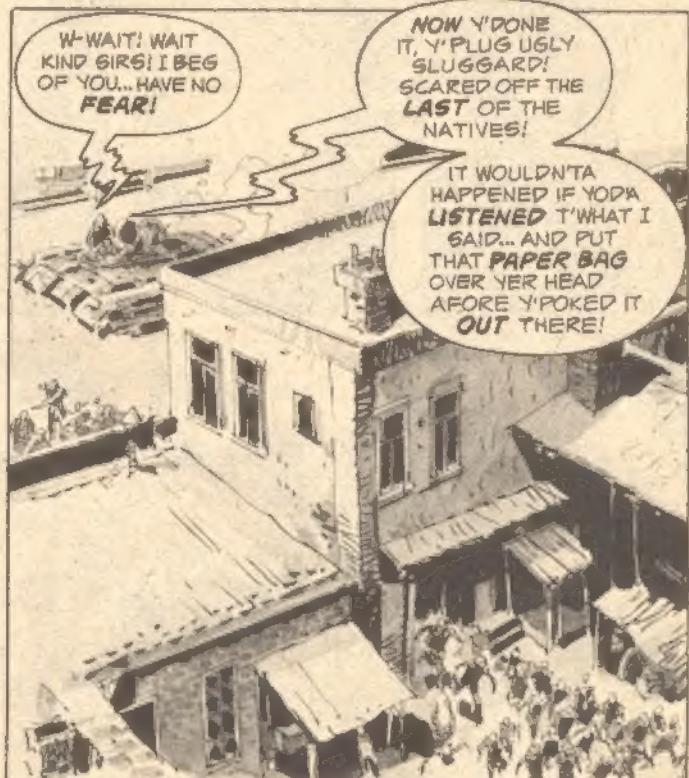
OH LORD, JED! I **KNEW** IT! MORE OF 'EM! MORE OF THEM HID'VEOS **MONSTERS!**



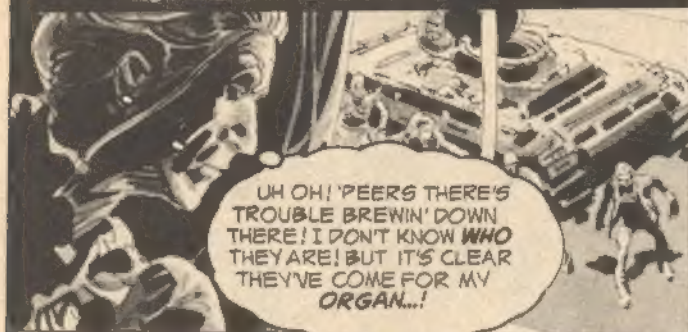
W-WAIT! WAIT KIND GIRS! I BEG OF YOU...HAVE NO **FEAR!**

NOW Y'DONE IT, Y'PLUG UGLY SLUGGARD! SCARED OFF THE **LAST** OF THE NATIVES!

IT WOULDN'TA HAPPENED IF YODA **LISTENED** T'WHAT I SAID... AND PUT THAT **PAPER BAG** OVER YER HEAD AFORE Y'POKED IT **OUT THERE!**



MEANWHILE... TWIN BUT BEADY EYES STARE UPON THE **ROOK** AND HIS ENTOURAGE OF THREE AS THEY EMERGE FROM THE TANK-LIKE CRAFT...



UH OH! 'PEERS THERE'S TROUBLE BREWIN' DOWN THERE! I DON'T KNOW **WHO** THEY ARE! BUT IT'S CLEAR THEY'VE COME FOR MY **ORGAN...**

THIS IS THE PLACE I TOLD YOU ABOUT, BOYS, THE BOARDING HOUSE WHERE THE MONSTER'S BEEN LIVING!

LORD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THE PERVERT'S DONE WITH **GRANNY FILCHER...** THE SWEET LITTLE WOMAN WHO **RUNS** THE PLACE!

IF HE'S IN THERE, WE'LL SMOKE HIM OUT, MR. FEATHER! **MANNERS...** GET HIM, BOY!

M-ME, SIR!? W-WHY ALWAYS ME?

Y-YES, MA'AM!

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE WHAT'S 'SPOSED T'BE **PROTECTIN'** ME... THAT'S WHY Y' **REPREHENSIBLE MISCREANT!**

NOW GIT WHAT PASSES FER YER RUMP OUT THERE... AND **SAVE ME** FROM THEM **MERCENARY MALEFACTORS!**

Y-YOU...!? YOU'RE THE 'MONSTER' THAT'S BEEN TERRORIZING THIS TOWN?

THAT'S RIGHT, TIN MAN! BUT IF I WERE **YOU...** I'D WATCH WHO I WAS CALLIN' A **MONSTER!**

THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS WHERE I COME FROM, BOY...! YOU'D BEST BE PREPARED T'BACK 'EM UP WITH **ACTION!**

A-ACTION!?

Y-YOU'RE NOT CHALLENGING ME TO A...

...DUEL?

Y'KNOW...YER PRETTY **SHARP** FOR A **ROBOT!** NOW Y'GOT JUST THREE SECONDS T'GO FOR YER **GUN!**

BUT...

BUT... SIR...!

ONE!

I...I CAN'T DRAW ON YOU...!

TWO!



H-HEY! NO FAIR!

YOU NEVER SAID **THREE!!**

DOWN, USELESS DOWN!

DON'T LET THAT FLYIN' GUNK HIT YOU!



AND...INSIDE GRANNY'S BOARDING HOUSE...IT IS AN **ANGRY OLD WOMAN** WHO GREET'S THE VICTORIOUS **ORGAN LO...**

WELL **SCARIN'** AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH! I WANT THEM INTRUDERS **MAIMED!**

Y' DEFALCATIN' FEATHER-HEADED FILCHER! Y'DIDN'T GET RID OF THEM LIKE I SAID!

THEY'S STILL OUT THERE... WAITIN' FER A CHANCE T' STEAL M' MONEY!

B-BUT, GRANNY...! I... I TRIED TO SCARE THEM OFF... REALLY I DID!

GIT YER GRUBBY PAWS OFF'N ME, BANJO FEATHER! Y'D THINK I'D NEVER BEEN THROWN THROUGH A WINDOW A'FORE!

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT, GRANDFATHER! OBVIOUSLY OUR FOE IS NOT OF THIS WORLD!

BUT IF HE'S AN ALIEN, WHAT NEED DOES HE HAVE FOR MONEY!

MAYBE IF Y' SPENT LESS TIME MOVIN' YER MOUTH AND MORE TIME PAYIN' ATTENTION T' WHAT I BEEN TRYIN' T' TEACH YA ABOUT GUNFIGHTIN', TIN MAN... Y' WOULD'DA BEAT THAT SLOW MOVIN' VARMINT T' THE DRAW!

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY Y' DIDN'T FIRE AT HIM, BOY! Y' COULD'DA DOWNED TH' BOOGAR WITH EASE!

I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU ARE CORRECT, MASTER BISHOP! BUT THE JELLY-FILLED PELLETS I KEEP IN MY GUN WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE IN-EFFECTIVE THAN THE CARTRIDGES WITH WHICH YOU TRIED TO DESTROY THE CREATURE!

ANOTHER THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY HE COERCED MANNERS INTO A GUNFIGHT...? IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WERE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO ANTAGONIZE US!

I SAY, SIR! I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR FREEING ME FROM THIS GOO! IT FEELS SO GOOD TO MOVE AGAIN!

MANNERS IS RIGHT, GRANDFATHER! NOTHING SHORT OF THIS TANK WILL STOP THAT DEMON!

LIKE IT OR NOT... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO **USE** IT TO STORM HIS STRONGHOLD!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS HE'S HIDING IN THERE... READY TO USE THEM ON US, JUST AS HE USED HIS CEMENT GUN ON MANNERS!

BUT... BUT WHAT IF GRANNY IS IN THERE, BOY!

WHAT IF WE HURT THAT POOR OLD WOMAN?

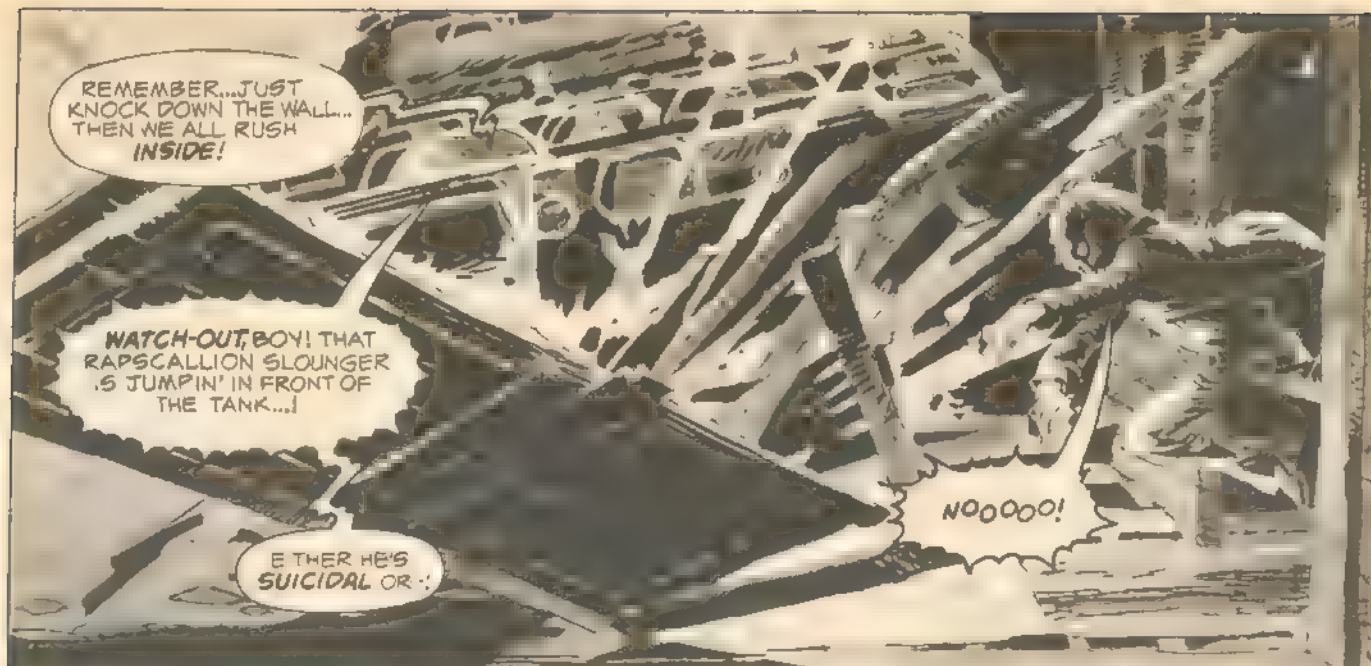
WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT HER, BANJO! IF SHE'S IN THERE... THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET HER OUT!

WE'LL KNOCK DOWN THE WALL, THEN STORM ORGAN'S STRONGHOLD! THE FIRST ONE TO SPOT THE OLD WOMAN WILL RUSH HER TO SAFETY!

OH... OH NO! ORGAN!

ORGAN! COME QUICK!

S-SAVE POOR GRANNY FROM THAT RAMPAGING THING!!

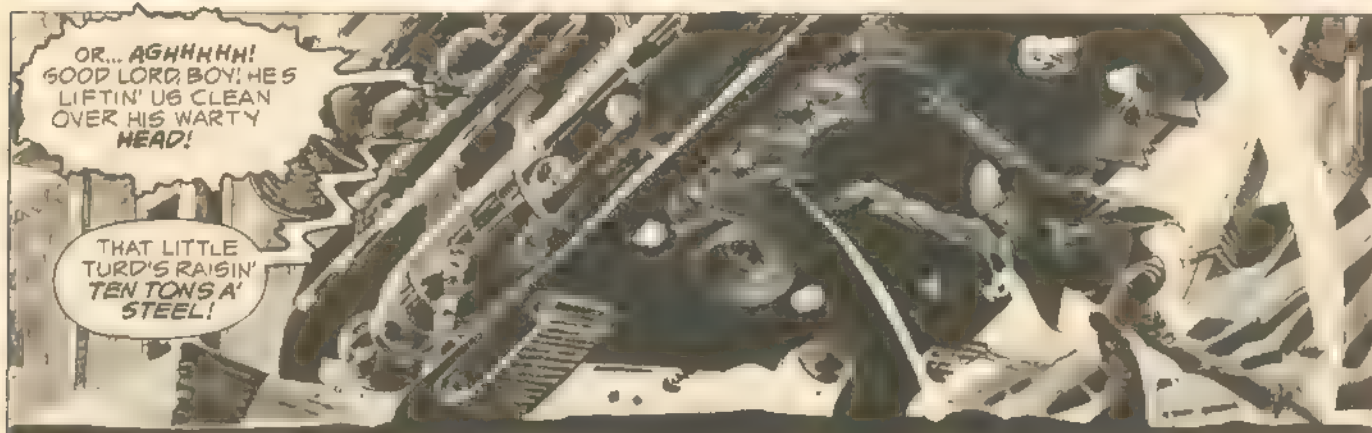


REMEMBER...JUST
KNOCK DOWN THE WALL...
THEN WE ALL RUSH
INSIDE!

WATCH-OUT, BOY! THAT
RAPSCALLION SLOUNGER
'S JUMPIN' IN FRONT OF
THE TANK...!

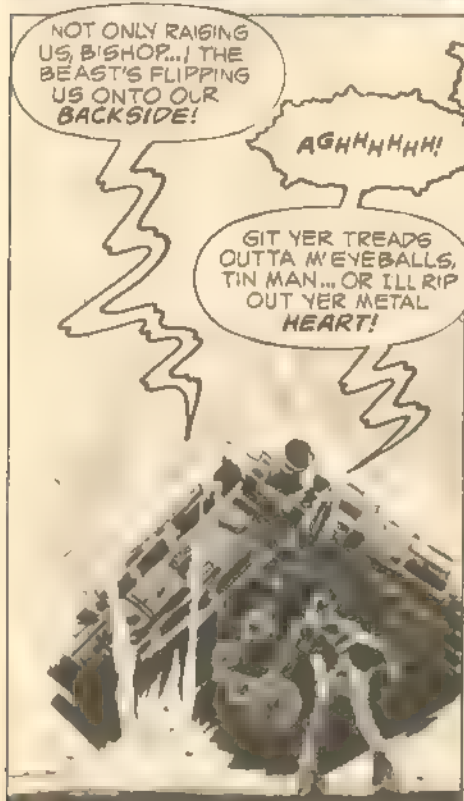
E THER HE'S
SUICIDAL OR..

NOOOOO!



OR... AGHHHHH!
GOOD LORD, BOY! HE'S
LIFTIN' US CLEAN
OVER HIS WARTY
HEAD!

THAT LITTLE
TURD'S RAISIN'
TEN TONS A'
STEEL!



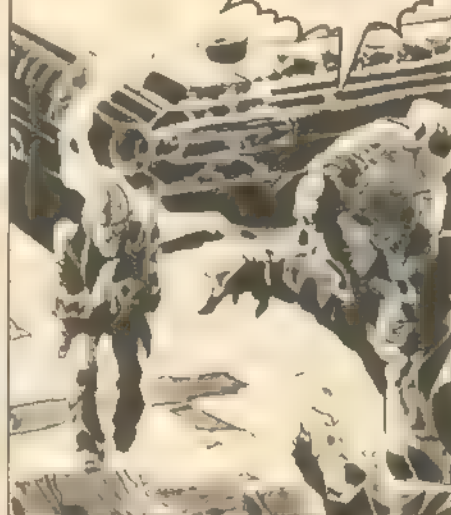
NOT ONLY RAISING
US, BISHOP...! THE
BEAST'S FLIPPING
US ONTO OUR
BACKSIDE!

AGHHHHH!

GIT YER TREADS
OUTTA M'EYEBALLS,
TIN MAN... OR I'LL RIP
OUT YER METAL
HEART!

ER... SOMEHOW,
SIR... I DON'T THINK
YOUR PLAN HAS
SUCCEEDED!

ORGAN:
ORGAN LO!
YOU DO AS YER
GRANNY SAYS...
AN' FINISH
THEM RIGHT
THIS
M.NUTE!



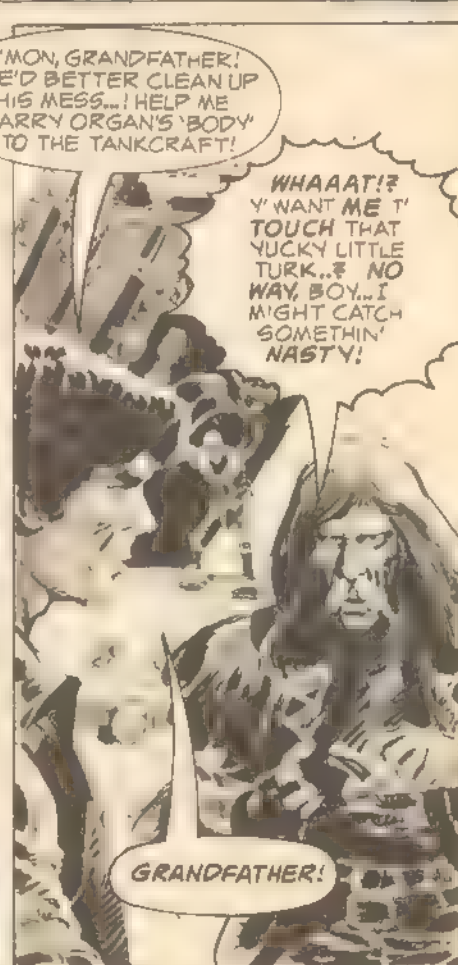
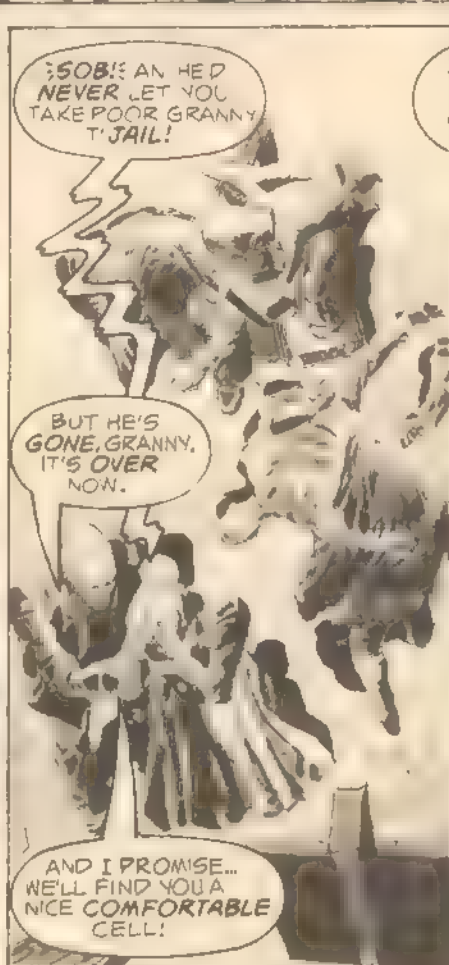
I... I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT,
MISTER DANE...!
THAT... THAT'S
GRANNY OUT
THERE! AND...
AND SHE'S
ORDERING
THAT ALIEN
TO KILL US!

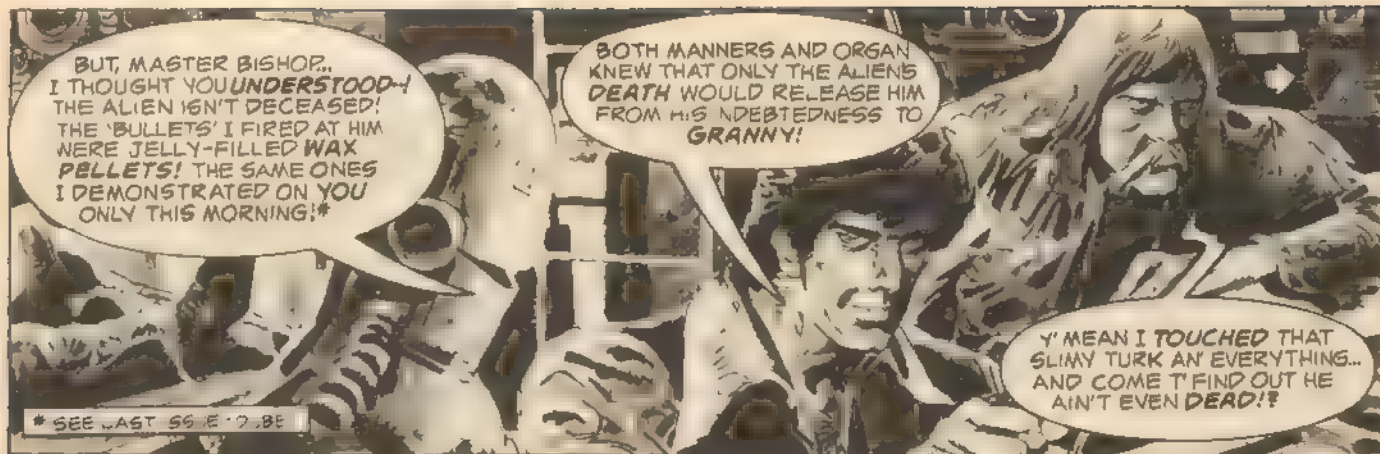
IF SHE'S
BEHIND ALL
TH'S, THAT
WOULD ANSWER
A LOT OF
QUESTIONS,
BANJO!

C'MON...
LET'S CRAWL
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE WE'RE
TRAPPED LIKE
SITTING
DUCKS!









BUT, MASTER BISHOP... I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD! THE ALIEN ISN'T DECEASED! THE 'BULLETS' I FIRED AT HIM WERE JELLY-FILLED WAX PELLETS! THE SAME ONES I DEMONSTRATED ON YOU ONLY THIS MORNING!*

BOTH MANNERS AND ORGAN KNEW THAT ONLY THE ALIENS DEATH WOULD RELEASE HIM FROM HIS INDEBTEDNESS TO GRANNY!

Y' MEAN I TOUCHED THAT SLIMY TURK AN' EVERYTHING... AND COME T' FIND OUT HE AIN'T EVEN DEAD!?

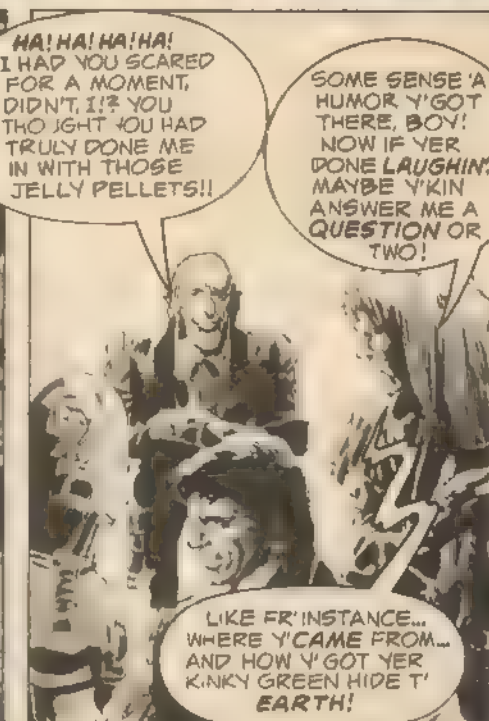
* SEE LAST PAGE 7.85



THAT'S CORRECT, MASTER BISHOP: SHOW HIM, ORGAN!

ER...! YOU CAN GET UP NOW, ELFIN, SIR!

UH... M-MASTER ORGAN...!?



HA! HA! HA! HA! I HAD YOU SCARED FOR A MOMENT, DIDN'T I!? YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD TRULY DONE ME IN WITH THOSE JELLY PELLETS!!

SOME SENSE 'A HUMOR Y' GOT THERE, BOY! NOW IF YER DONE LAUGHIN'... MAYBE Y'KIN ANSWER ME A QUESTION OR TWO!

LIKE FR' INSTANCE... WHERE Y' CAME FROM... AND HOW Y' GOT YER KINKY GREEN HIDE T' EARTH!



AND AS MUCH AS I DISLIKE LIFE ON MY NATIVE THALMUROID... IT IS INFINITELY MORE PLEASURABLE THAN THE LIFE I'VE BEEN LEADING HERE!



WHICH IS WHY I SENT THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED, MY FRIENDS... TELLING YOU OF THE HORRIBLE 'MONSTER' WHO'D INVADDED THE WEST!

YOU SENT IT! OF COURSE... THAT EXPLAINS IT ALL!



NOW IF ONLY YOU COULD HELP ME RETURN TO MY WORLD... I'D BE ETERNALLY IN YOUR DEBT!

WHAT'D YA THINK WE LOOK LIKE T' YOU, BOY! AN INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL SERVICE!?



OH, I THINK WE CAN HELP ORGAN, GRANDFATHER! I REMEMBER AN ALIEN DEVICE IN THE ROOK CAVE THAT LOOKED AMAZINGLY LIKE A TIME-SPACE TELEPORTER!

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE THE GENIUS OF THE FAMILY, BOY! I PROBABLY WOULDN'TA KNOWN THE THING FROM ONE 'A THOSE NEW-FANGLED FANCY FLUSH TOILETS!

SO IT IS THAT THE LITTLE ALIEN DEPARTS OUR WORLD, HAPPY TO BE RETURNING HOME... BUT SAD TO LEAVE HIS HERO BEHIND...

GOOD BYE, MASTER ORGAN... I YOU CAN BE SURE WE WON'T FORGET YOU!

HAVE A GOOD TRIP BOY! DON'T FERGIT T'WRITE!

GOOD BYE, ORGAN. OLD FRIEND!

SO LONG, MY FRIENDS...! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP...! YOU'VE TRULY MADE MY STAY ON EARTH MOST MEMORABLE!



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MAGIC, BOY! ONE SECOND HE'S STANDIN' THERE THE NEXT INSTANT HE'S GONE!

Y'KNOW... SOMEDAY WE GOTTA TRY THAT ON OL' USELESS!



HA! HA! DON'T LOOK SO UPSET, Y' HUMORLESS SLUG! CAN'T Y' TELL WHEN AN OLD MAN'S JUST JOSHIN'?

WHY, AFTER TODAY... YER A HERO, SON! AN' IN MY BOOK... THAT'S AS GOOD AS BEIN' HUMAN!

AND... BACK IN THE TOWN OF RED GAP... EX-SHERIFF FEATHER, AS GOOD AS HIS WORD, THE CELL HE HAS PREPARED FOR GRANNY HAS ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME...!



DINNER, GRANNY?

OH, YOU SWEET OLD DEAR! YOU SPOIL ME SO!



IF I'DA KNOWN INCARCERATION WAS LIKE THIS... I'DA RUN AFOUL OF THE LAW AGES AGO!

Y'KEEP TREATIN' ME LIKE THIS, WHEN ME EIGHTY-YEAR TERM IS UP... Y'JUST MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME GETTIN' RID'A ME!

NEXT ISSUE: THE ROOK MEETS VAMPIRELLA IN A FULL-LENGTH EERIE BLOCK-BUSTER!

THE COMIC BOOKS

Classics Illustrated

If you review the less-than-glorious five-decade history of the comic-book business, you won't find too many truly noteworthy events. After the rather ingenious decision was made to publish low-cost, full-color funny books on a regular basis in the early 1930s, there have been very, very few other milestones.

There was Superman—originally conceived as a comic-strip character, of course—and the whole concept of the “superhero.” There was Charles Biro's *Crime Does Not Pay*, the first “crime” comic, and his little remembered but trailblazing *Tops* book, the first oversized comic magazine. There was the Gaines/Feldstein “New Trend” at EC, the start of the horror comic genre, and Harvey Kurtzman's *Mad*. Simon and Kirby's invention of the “romance” comic in the 1950s certainly qualified. And, if you stretch things, Stan Lee's horde of Marvel “superheroes with problems” were probably in the milestone category, too.

There was one other truly significant genre of comic publishing, the *Classics Illustrated* series, and it is sad to report this once important part of the comic-book business is about to become extinct.

Although Al Kanter, the originator of *Classics*, sold the firm in 1969 and the new owners stopped producing titles three years later, there have been millions of copies in print for schools, libraries and other institutions to buy throughout the 1970s.

Now even that supply is almost totally gone, never to be replenished. Guild Books, the small New York

publishing house that has been distributing the remainders for the last five years, says its inventory will run out before the end of the year.

“Of the 300 titles of *Classics Illustrated* originally published, less than 50 remain,” according to Guild publisher M. Declan (“Deck”) Bransfield III. “Rural states like Utah and New Hampshire and Arizona have been buying them in quantity. We had been selling about 25,000 a month in bulk, but they'll be gone pretty soon.”

During their peaks in the mid-1960s, *Classics* were selling about 20 million copies a year on newsstands and in chain stores such as Woolworth. While they sold for a quarter throughout most of the 1960s, Guild was selling them at 59 cents a copy.

Unlike most of the mimicry and imitation that ran rampant in the 1940s—much like it does today—*Classics* were a true original. Kanter, a publisher of only modest means in a comic business then dominated by National and Timely and Fawcett, hit upon the idea of condensing classics of literature in comic form, when he discovered his own children were reading more comics than classics.

Although *Classics*—and *Junior Classics* for the youngest comic readers—had to weather some early opposition from teachers and schools and others in the educational bureaucracy, the books made a huge impact on the market. Educators learned the kids would read *Classics* and the books spurred them on to better things. Kanter bowed to the pressure, too, and began printing a little caveat—“Now that you



have read the *Classics Illustrated* edition, don't miss the added enjoyment of reading the original, obtainable at your school or public library”—at the end of each comic.

“They helped many children become interested in great literature,” Mike Kanter, former *Classics* distribution manager, said the other day. “Kids called them instant book reports, but that was never my brother Al's intent for them when he started the project. We never put ads in, either. We always tried to keep them educational.”

Deck Bransfield, however, said his first encounter with *Classics* in the 1940s was to use them as the “instant book report.” “I kept putting off reading *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoyevsky for so long that I read the comic the night before and whipped out a book report.

“The teacher never knew,” Bransfield claimed, “but even now I attribute my love of readings to *Classics*. They got me started on Russian novels.”

The bad days for *Classics* didn't come until the newsstand crunch of the late 1960s, the crunch that affected the whole magazine business.

“*Classics* began to fade because dealers stopped displaying them,” Mike Kanter said. “They didn't want to give valuable store space to such a small profit item.”

Bowing to the inevitable, Al Kanter sold the name *Classics Illustrated* and the inventory to Twin Circle, the religious publishing house that also produces the evangelical editions of *Archie*. Twin Circle gave up the ghost—or the spirit, if you will—in 1972, stopped publishing *Classics* and sold the remaining inventory to Guild.

Of the remaining four dozen titles, Bransfield said, there are plenty of copies of Dickens' *David Copperfield*, but perilously few copies of Melville's *Moby Dick*.

Classics, like all comics, have become big, big business, commanding outrageous prices for first editions. Guild, however, is selling its remaining inventory for the 59-cent price, plus 25 cents an order for delivery. They will ship the set of the 28 remaining *Classics* for \$16.77, a set of 13 remaining *Black History Illustrated* for \$7.92 and the six remaining “vocabulary builders” (comic versions of nursery rhymes) for \$3.79.

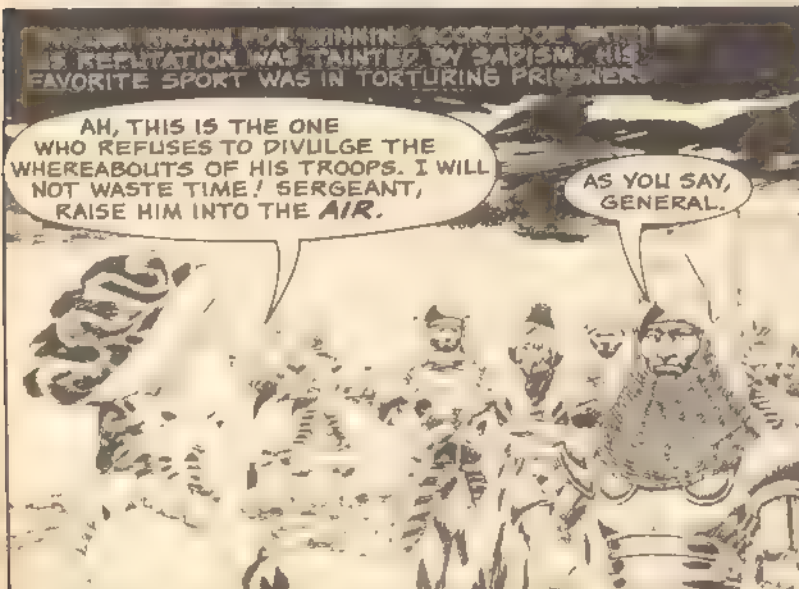
And, if you're not a purist, Guild will also sell you a set of 11 of those tacky *Marvel Classics Comics* for \$6.49.

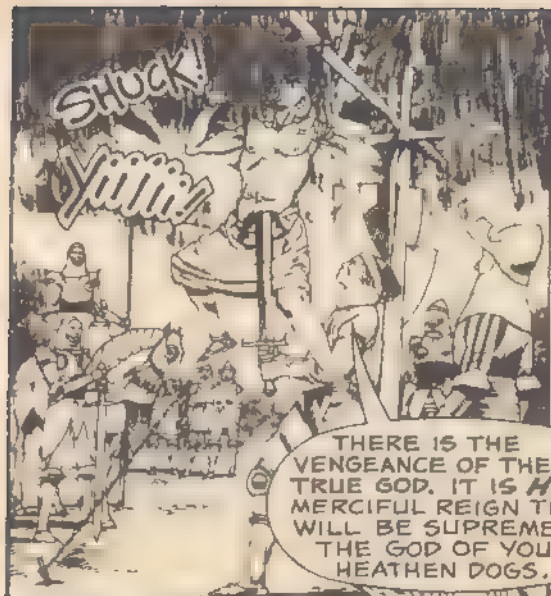
Guild Books can be contacted at 86 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10024.

BEFORE I TELL THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY FAMILY, IT IS A HISTORY NOT FOR THOSE OF DELICATE EATING HABITS OR CIVILIZED MANNERS, FOR IT IS A STORY OF FOULEST CRUELTY, BARBARISM AND FANDEST HORROR. IT IS THE STORY OF MY FAMILY. IT IS THE STORY OF...

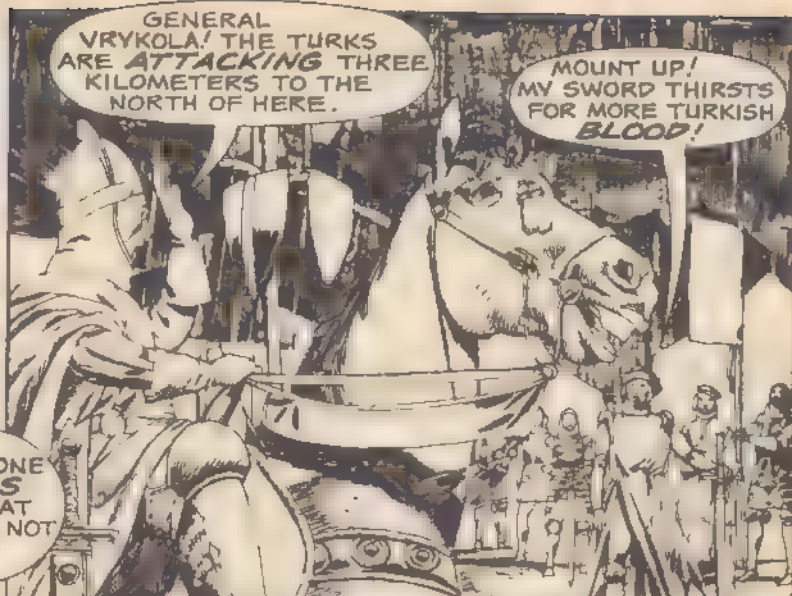
Honor and Blood

I BEGIN WITH MY FATHER, FOR THERE I FIRST KNOW THE MYSTERY BEFORE HIM. IN 1605, DURING THE GREAT RELIGIOUS WARS BETWEEN CHRISTIAN EUROPE AND THE MOHAMMEDAN TURKS, MY FATHER, BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF LUPENI IN THE TRANSYLVANIAN ALPS, WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES IN TRANSILVANIA.





THERE IS THE VENGEANCE OF THE ONE TRUE GOD. IT IS HIS MERCIFUL REIGN THAT WILL BE SUPREME, NOT THE GOD OF YOU HEATHEN DOGS.



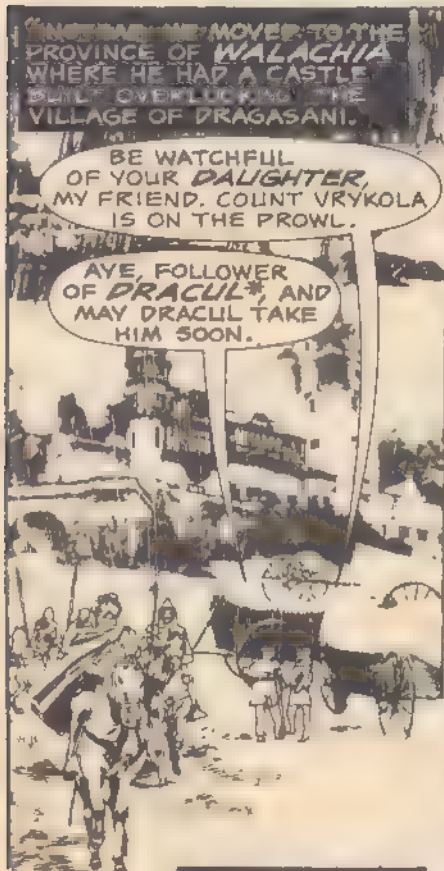
GENERAL VRYKOLA! THE TURKS ARE ATTACKING THREE KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH OF HERE.

MOUNT UP! MY SWORD THIRSTS FOR MORE TURKISH BLOOD!



HE WAS WOUNDED AND FORCED TO RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, RETURN HOME.

INFIDEL! FEEL THE VENGEANCE OF THE ONE TRUE GOD... ALLAH!



WHEN HE MOVED TO THE PROVINCE OF WALACHIA WHERE HE HAD A CASTLE BUILT OVERLOOKING THE VILLAGE OF DRAGASANI.

BE WATCHFUL OF YOUR DAUGHTER, MY FRIEND. COUNT VRYKOLA IS ON THE PROWL.

AWE, FOLLOWER OF DRACUL*, AND MAY DRACUL TAKE HIM SOON.

*ROMANIAN WORD FOR DEVIL.



AMID THE MEDIEVAL SPLENOR HARDENED BY YEARS OF WAR, HE CONTINUED HIS WANTON LIFE. HE FILLED HIS HOME WITH YOUNG SERVANT GIRLS AND BEDDED EACH OF THEM AT HIS LEISURE.



IF A GIRL OBJECTED, HE TOOK THE HELPLESS MAIDEN INTO THE DUNGEON OF CASTLE VRYKOLA WHERE SHE WOULD BE BEATEN INTO SUBMISSION.

NO MEKE SERVANT GIRL WILL DARE TO SAY NO TO VRYKOLA AND ESCAPE PUNISHMENT! TAKE HEED.

MERCY! I BEG FOR MERCY!



STOP! I ORDER YOU TO **CEASE** IMMEDIATELY. WHAT TRESPASS COULD WARRANT SUCH A BEATING?

WHO SPEAKS? EVEN FROM YOUR SILHOUETTE, I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT ONE OF MY GIRLS.



I AM YOUR COUSIN, **URSULA**, FROM **BUCURESTI**. MY PARTY AND I HAVE JUST ARRIVED A FEW MOMENTS AGO.

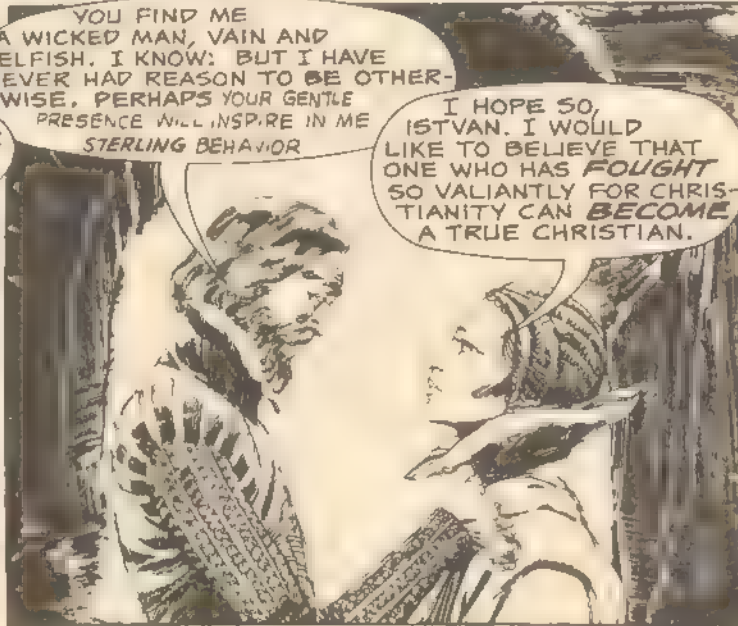
URSULA! YOU WERE BUT A CHILD. LORD, HOW WELL YOU'VE GROWN.

COME UPSTAIRS AND I WILL MAKE AMENDS FOR THIS AWKWARD MEETING.



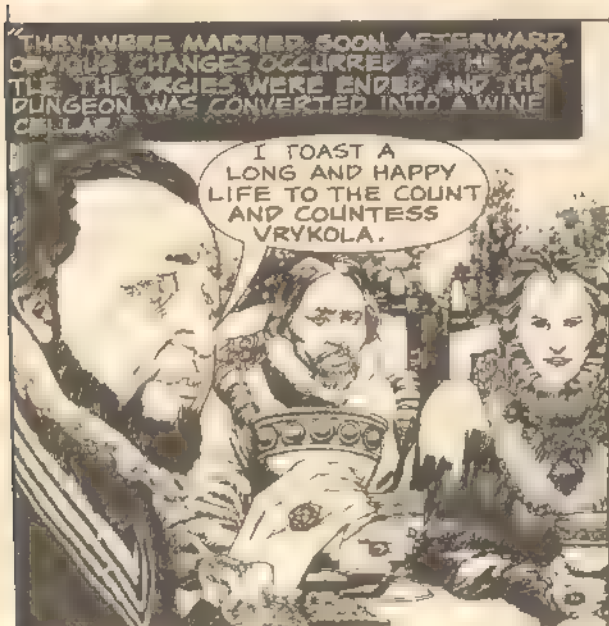
I TRUST I HAVE MADE YOU COMFORTABLE. NOW THEN, HOW MAY I SERVE MY ENCHANTINGLY BEAUTIFUL COUSIN?

BY **MARRYING ME**. SUCH IS THE WISH OF OUR FAMILIES. CERTAINLY, IT IS **NOT** MY DESIRE.



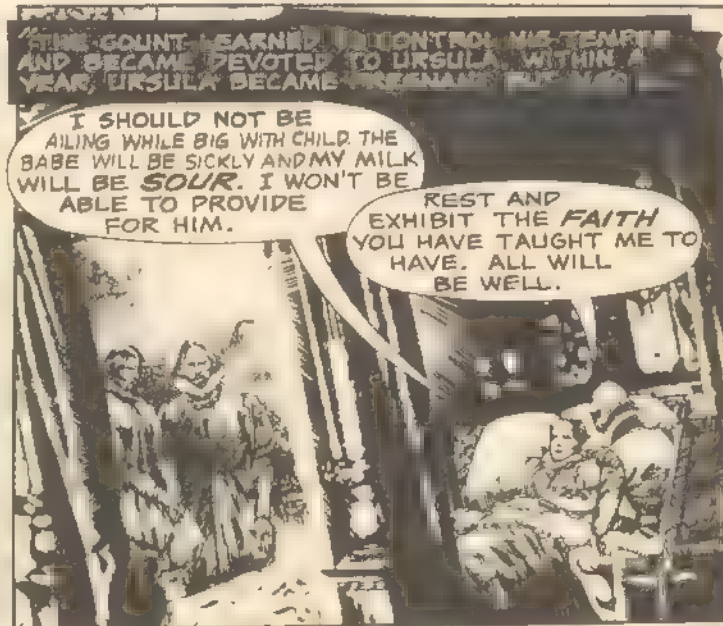
YOU FIND ME A WICKED MAN, VAIN AND SELFISH. I KNOW. BUT I HAVE NEVER HAD REASON TO BE OTHERWISE. PERHAPS YOUR GENTLE PRESENCE WILL INSPIRE IN ME **STERLING BEHAVIOR**.

I HOPE SO, **ISTVAN**. I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT ONE WHO HAS **FOUGHT** SO VALIANTLY FOR **CHRISTIANITY** CAN **BECOME** A TRUE CHRISTIAN.



THEY WERE MARRIED SOON AFTERWARD. OBVIOUS CHANGES OCCURRED AT THE CASTLE. THE ORGIES WERE ENDED AND THE DUNGEON WAS CONVERTED INTO A WINE CELLAR.

I TOAST A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE TO THE COUNT AND COUNTESS **VRYKOLA**.



THE COUNT LEARNED TO CONTROL HIS TEMPER AND BECAME DEVOTED TO **URSULA**. WITHIN A YEAR, **URSULA** BECAME PREGNANT.

I SHOULD NOT BE AILING WHILE BIG WITH CHILD. THE BABE WILL BE SICKLY AND MY MILK WILL BE **SOUR**. I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR HIM.

REST AND EXHIBIT THE **FAITH** YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME TO HAVE. ALL WILL BE WELL.



"A FEW DAYS LATER,
URSULA DIED."

OH HH! NOOO!
NO, GOD, NO! SHE
CAN'T BE DEAD! I
WON'T ALLOW IT.



I AM URSULA'S
BROTHER, FERENCZ.
IT SORROWS ME THAT WE MUST
MEET UNDER THESE SAD
CIRCUMSTANCES.

I AM
GLAD YOU
CAME.



EACH EVENING, HE WENT TO
THE VAULT TO BE WITH AND
HE
WENT WITH HIM.

I WILL REMAIN
OUTSIDE SO YOU MAY
BE ALONE WITH HER.

FERENCZ,
DO YOU HEAR A
NOISE COMING FROM
THE VAULT? MY GOD!
COULD IT BE THAT
SHE IS ALIVE?



I HAVE **NEVER**
HAD THE STONE SEALED.
QUICKLY, HELP ME
TO REMOVE IT.

IT HAS BEEN
DAYS... NO, ALMOST
A **WEEK!** HOW COULD
SHE BE ALIVE? WHAT
COULD HAVE **SUS-**
TAINED HER
THIS LONG?



OH, GOD!
IT'S HER **BABIES!**
TWINS! THEY WERE
BORN IN THE
TOMB!

THEY HAVE
BEEN HERE FOR SO
LONG! HOW COULD
THEY HAVE
SURVIVED?

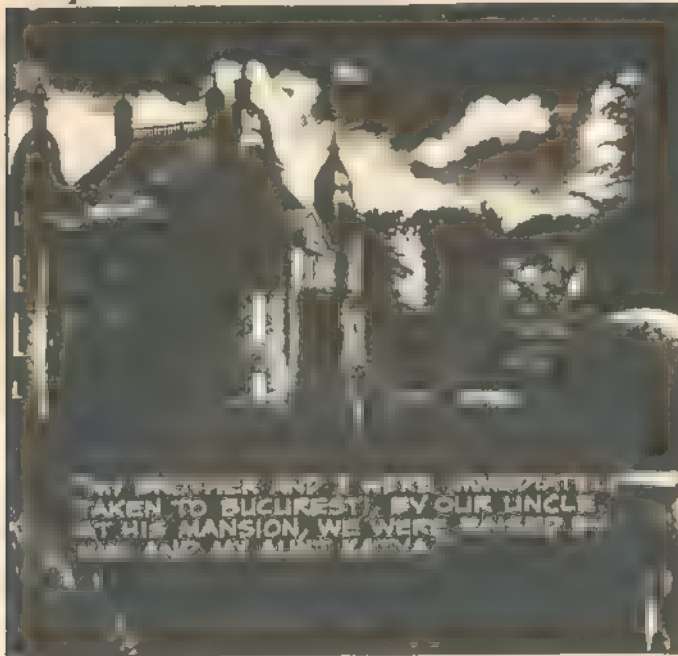


ON HER!
GOOD LORD! THEY
SURVIVED ON HER!
SHE **PROVIDED** FOR
THEM WITH HER
OWN BODY!

LOOK, THEY
WERE BORN WITH
TEETH, THE SIGN
OF **VAMPIRES*!**

*OLD ROMANIAN SUPERSTITION

Chapter Two: Stanislaw



MY BROTHER AND I WERE ANNOUNCED TO
BE TAKEN TO BUCURESTI BY OUR UNCLE
AT HIS MANSION, WE WERE SAVED BY
THEY AND MY AUNT KATYA.



"THOUGH TWINS, MY BROTHER JANOS
AND I DID NOT RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER.
HE WAS ATHLETIC, WHILE I WAS MORE
INTERESTED IN BOOKS."

"I WAS NORMAL UNTIL I REACHED PUBERTY.
THEN SEVERAL VIOLENT CHANGES TOOK
PLACE IN MY BODY. TWO THINGS I HATED
ME: FOOD AND SLEEP."

CLOSE THE
CURTAINS! JANOS,
PLEASE! THE SUNLIGHT
IS BURNING MY
FLESH! GAAH!

BE QUIET
STANISLAW!
I'M CLOSING THEM. HOW
STRANGE YOU'VE
BECOME.

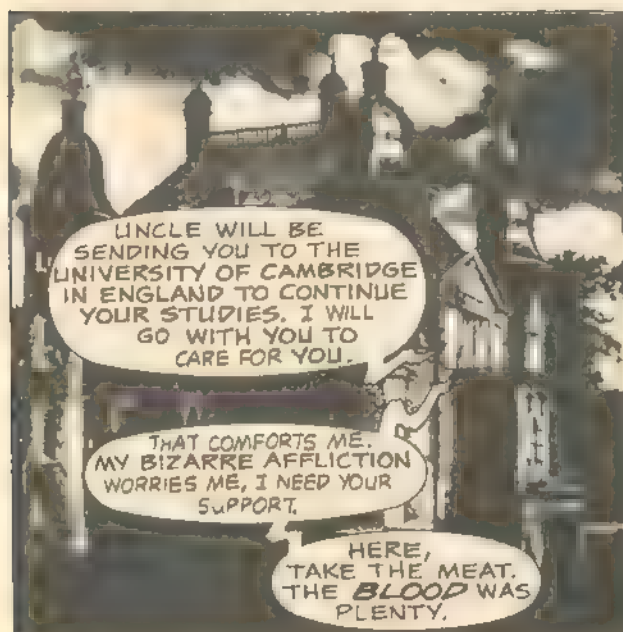


"JANOS HAD SOMEHOW ESCAPED THE
MALADY WHICH HAD AFFLICTED ME."

STILL STUDYING
YOUR BOOKS, EH, MY
BRAINY LITTLE BROTHER?

I'VE BROUGHT
YOU SOME RAW
MEAT BATHING
IN BLOOD.

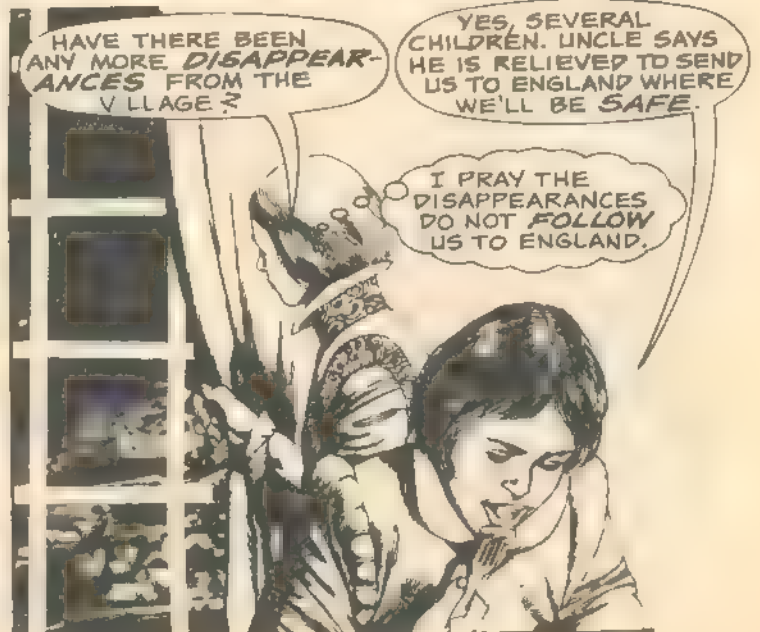
THANKS, BIG
BROTHER. YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE I
DARE TELL WHAT
I NEED.



UNCLE WILL BE
SENDING YOU TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
IN ENGLAND TO CONTINUE
YOUR STUDIES. I WILL
GO WITH YOU TO
CARE FOR YOU.

THAT COMFORTS ME.
MY BIZARRE AFFLICTION
WORRIES ME, I NEED YOUR
SUPPORT.

HERE,
TAKE THE MEAT.
THE BLOOD WAS
PLENTY.



HAVE THERE BEEN
ANY MORE **DISAPPEAR-**
ANCES FROM THE
V LLAGE?

YES, SEVERAL
CHILDREN. UNCLE SAYS
HE IS RELIEVED TO SEND
US TO ENGLAND WHERE
WE'LL BE **SAFE**.

I PRAY THE
DISAPPEARANCES
DO NOT **FOLLOW**
US TO ENGLAND.

BE CAREFUL, NEPHEW. YOU KNOW THE WEIRD CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR BIRTH. THE LEGENDS... WELL, I HOPE THEY ARE NO MORE THAN LEGENDS.

IT IS TOO LATE TO TELL HIM OF MY OCCASIONAL **BLACKOUTS** AND HOW THEY COINCIDE WITH THE DISAPPEARANCES.

I AM GOING TO STUDY **MEDICINE**. SOMEWHERE IN THE ENORMOUS LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY, THERE MUST BE A CURE FOR MY ILLNESS.

YOU HAVE BEEN AS SOLEMN AS A STONE THE ENTIRE TRIP. WE ARE NEARLY IN PORT. NOW, CHEER UP!



I'M IN THE MOOD FOR WINE AND PRETTY GIRLS. TOMORROW YOU WILL REGISTER AT THE UNIVERSITY.

EXCELLENT, MY BROTHER. I'LL SEND A MESSAGE TO UNCLE FERENCZ TO TELL HIM WE ARRIVED SAFELY, AND MEET YOU INSIDE.



I DON'T RECALL PASSING ANY OF THESE BUILDINGS. HOW STRANGE.

EXCUSE ME, MISS. BUT WHERE IS **BOAR'S HEAD TAVERN**?

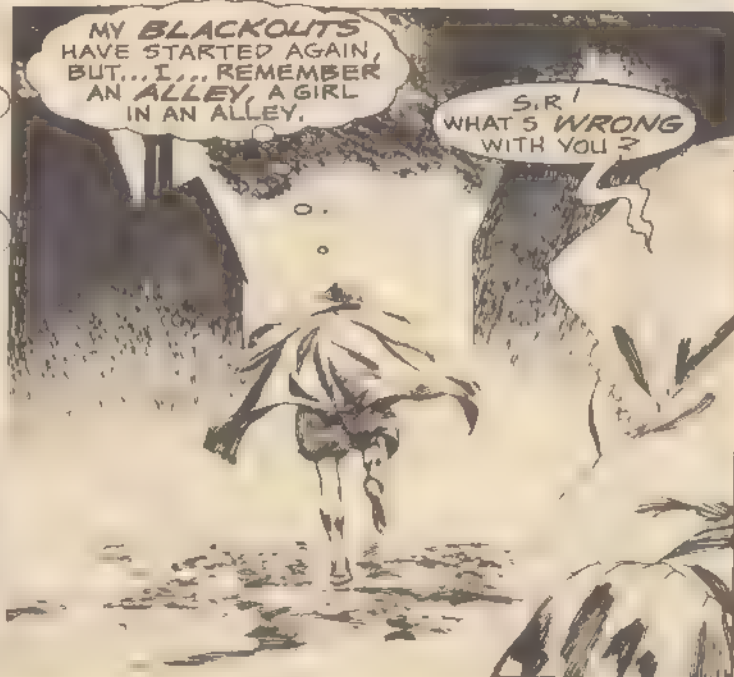
BOAR'S HEAD? IT'S ACROSS TOWN.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I COULDN'T HAVE TRAVELED SO FAR!

MY HANDS! THEY'RE COVERED WITH **BLOOD**!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR?



MY **BLACKOUTS** HAVE STARTED AGAIN, BUT... I... REMEMBER AN ALLEY, A GIRL IN AN ALLEY.

SIR! WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU?



OH LORD!
EVERYTHING I'VE EVER
FEARED ABOUT MYSELF IS
TRUE. THE OTHERS IN
WALACHIA, I DID IT! I
MURDERED THEM!

MY
GLOVES!
THE FINAL
PROOF!



WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO? I
MUST TELL JANOS.
JANOS WILL
HELP ME.

AND THAT'S
IT, JANOS. I AM
A... **VAMPIRE**.



I'VE **KNOWN**
THAT FOR A LONG
TIME, LITTLE BRO-
THER. I'LL TAKE CARE
OF THE GIRL'S BODY.
I'LL FIX HER SO SHE
WON'T BE ABLE TO
COME **BACK** AS A
VAMPIRE HER-
SELF. YOU FIND US
A ROOM IN AN INN
NEARBY.

THERE
YOU ARE! I WAS WOR-
RIED ABOUT YOU. YOUR
ACCENT SHOWS THAT
YOU'RE A STRANGER TO
ENGLAND. I RECALLED
YOUR MENTIONING
BOAR'S HEAD, SO I
CAME TO SEE HOW
YOU WERE.

I'M FINE,
MISS. I'M
SEARCHING FOR
AN INN, AND
I'M IN A BIT OF
A RUSH.



MY NAME IS
MAGGIE LAMBERT
AND MY FATHER IS
TEACHING AT THE UNIVER-
SITY WHERE I'LL BET YOU'RE
A STUDENT. MY CARRIAGE
IS HERE SO WHY DON'T YOU
LET ME TAKE YOU TO AN
INN NEAR CAMBRIDGE.

THAT WILL
SAVE ME TIME,
AND IT'S NEARLY
DAWN. I THANK
YOU.



AS I AM, MYSELF.
MY AUNT WAS SUDDENLY
TAKEN ILL AND I WAS NEARBY
NURSING HER. NOW SHE IS
BETTER AND I AM EAGER
TO RETURN HOME.



HE BROUGHT ME TO A ROOM
AND I WENT STRAIGHT TO BED,
BUT MY SLEEP WAS TROUBLED.



YAAH!
IT'S HERE! THE
GIRL I MURDERED!
SHE'S COME BACK
FOR ME!



RELAX, LITTLE
BROTHER. I BROUGHT HER
HERE. I FIGURED THAT AS A
MEDICAL STUDENT, YOU'RE GOING
TO NEED **BODIES** TO PRACTICE
ON SHE CAN BE YOUR FIRST.

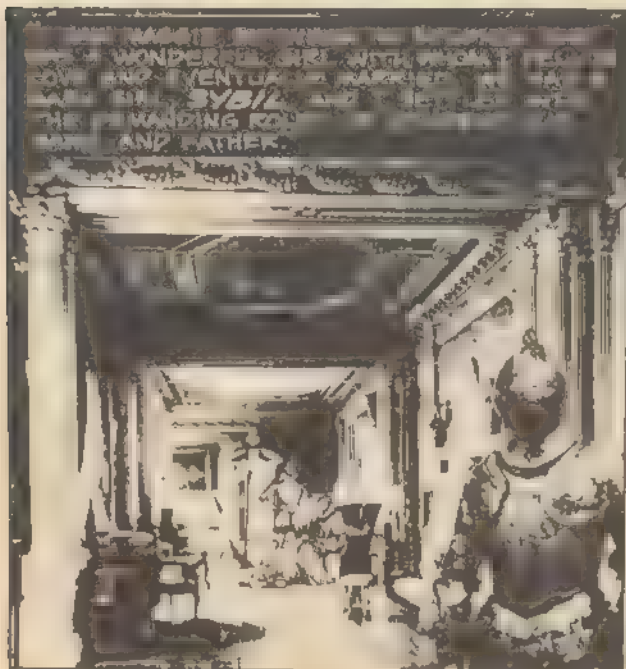
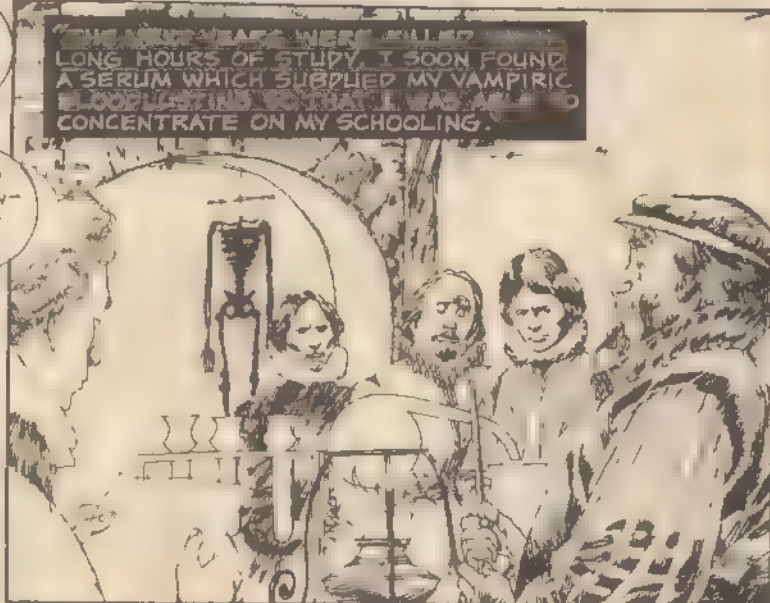
VERY THOUGHTFUL,
JANOS. BUT WHAT WILL
I DO WITH HER WHEN
I'M THROUGH?

YOU LEAVE THAT
TO ME. I'LL **DISPOSE**
OF HER SO SHE'LL
NEVER BE
FOUND.

I'M SURE YOU
WILL. HOW COULD
I EVER SURVIVE
WITHOUT YOU,
BIG BROTHER?

I'D BETTER
GET DRESSED AND
REGISTER FOR EVEN-
ING CLASSES. IT IS AL-
MOST SUNSET. I'VE
SLEPT ALL DAY.

THE NEXT YEARS WERE FILLED
LONG HOURS OF STUDY. I SOON FOUND
A SERUM WHICH SUPPLIED MY VAMPIRIC
BLOODLUSTING SO THAT I WAS ABLE TO
CONCENTRATE ON MY SCHOOLING.



GOOD EVENING,
STAN. HERE'S ANOTHER
CADAVER FOR YOU
TO DISSECT.

HOW'S
MAGGIE AND
MY DARLING
NIECE?

THEY ARE
WELL. YOU MUST
TELL ME, JANOS,
WHERE DO YOU **FIND**
SO MANY FRESH
BODIES? AND HOW
DO YOU GET **RID**
OF THEM?

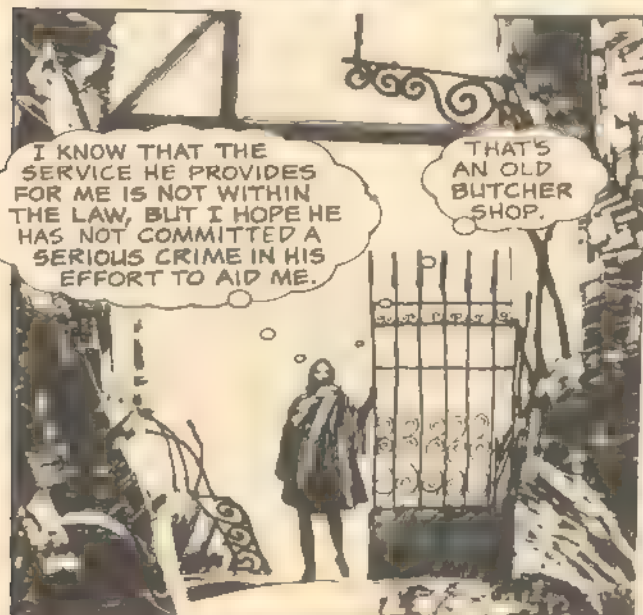


THERE ARE SECTIONS OF LONDON WHERE **CRIME** IS QUITE COMMON, AND BODIES OF MURDER VICTIMS ARE EASY TO FIND. AS FOR DISPOSING OF THE REMAINS, LET THAT BE MY **SECRET**.

AS YOU WISH. THERE'S ANOTHER DISSECTED BODY FOR YOU IN THE CLOSET.



FOR YEARS HE HAS PROVIDED FOR MY NEEDS. I SHOULD LEAVE HIM TO HIS PRIVACY, YET... I **MUST** KNOW. MY CURIOSITY CAN BE CONTAINED NO LONGER.



I KNOW THAT THE SERVICE HE PROVIDES FOR ME IS NOT WITHIN THE LAW, BUT I HOPE HE HAS NOT COMMITTED A SERIOUS CRIME IN HIS EFFORT TO AID ME.

THAT'S AN OLD BUTCHER SHOP.

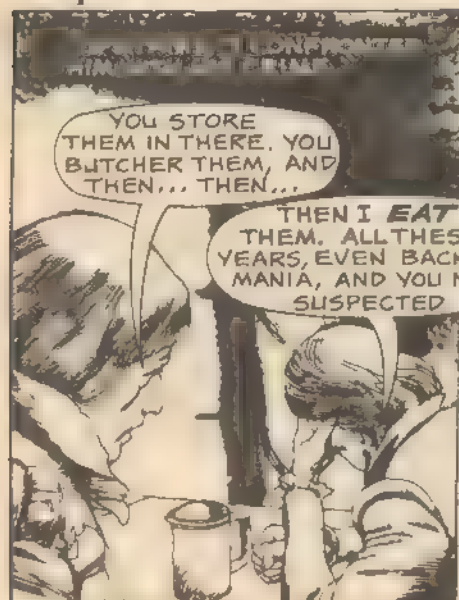


HE'S GONE UPSTAIRS AND HAS LEFT THE CADAVER BEHIND THAT DOOR.



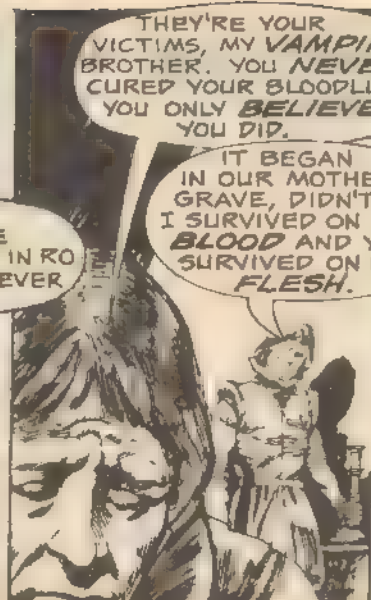
GOD! IT CAN'T BE! NOT JANOS. NOT MY BROTHER. HE **WOULDN'T** DO THIS!

Chapter Three: Janos



YOU STORE THEM IN THERE. YOU BUTCHER THEM, AND THEN... THEN...

THEN I **EAT** THEM. ALL THESE YEARS, EVEN BACK IN ROMANIA, AND YOU NEVER SUSPECTED



THEY'RE YOUR VICTIMS, MY **VAMPIRE** BROTHER. YOU **NEVER** CURED YOUR BLOODLUST. YOU ONLY **BELIEVED** YOU DID.

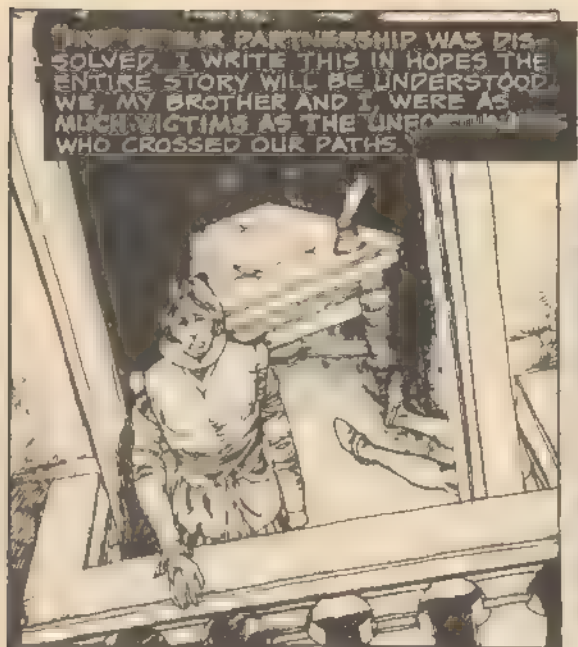
IT BEGAN IN OUR MOTHER'S GRAVE, DIDN'T IT. I SURVIVED ON HER **BLOOD** AND YOU SURVIVED ON HER **FLESH**.



OUR FATES WERE SEALED WHEN WE WERE BORN. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS I HAD THE COURAGE TO FACE WHAT I WAS...

BUT YOU... YOU HAD YOUR **BLACK-OUTS**!

YOU'RE RIGHT, JANOS. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO FACE WHAT WE ARE AND TO **END IT**.



THEIR PARTNERSHIP WAS DIS- SOLVED. I WRITE THIS IN HOPES THE ENTIRE STORY WILL BE UNDERSTOOD WE, MY BROTHER AND I, WERE AS MUCH VICTIMS AS THE UNFORTUNATE WHO CROSSED OUR PATHS.



"BUT NOW IT IS OVER."

BY OUR LADY! HARRY, GET THE ROYAL GUARDSMEN!



MOMMY, I STILL DON'T UNDER- STAND ABOUT DADDY. WAS HE BAD? IS HE BEING PUNISHED? IS HE... DEAD?

NOT NOW SYBIL. MOMMY ISN'T FEELING WELL GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY.



I'D RATHER NOT, MOMMY. THE SUN- LIGHT **HURTS**.

MOON-SHADOW

In the autumn of his years, the man who was known as Moonshadow, the assassin who never failed, put aside his weapons and estates.

He then set forth to wander an earth where technology has vanished in the wake of the Great Haunting.

He faced Death himself and bested him, extracting a promise of twenty-million lifetimes, an obligation that Death found somewhat annoying.

Death thereupon transferred Moonshadow to the Desert of Ash, which defends the city of the Changer—that being who drives the minds of mortal men insane.

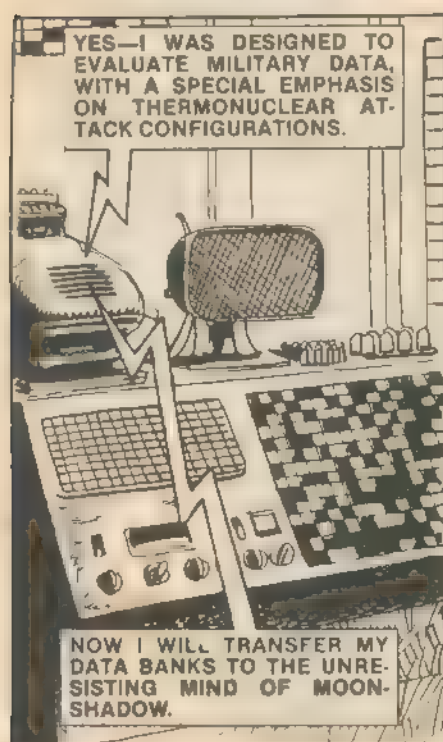
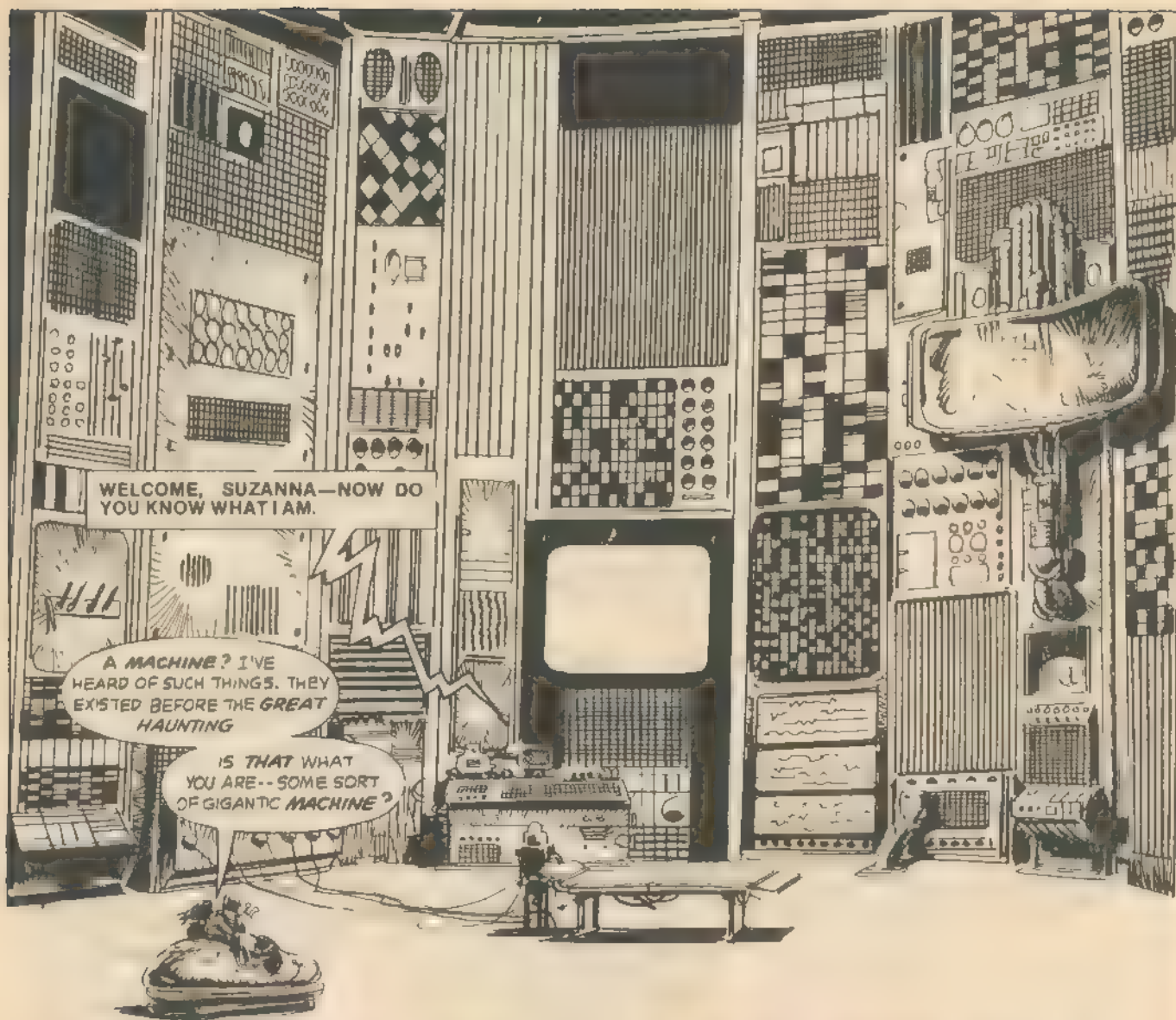
It was Death's fond desire that Moonshadow would live out his twenty million lifetimes in madness.

The city of the Changer was buried deep beneath the mighty Desert of Ash, and there Moonshadow was reunited with Suzanna, the woman he had loved and inadvertently slain in his youth.

Suzanna offered herself to a wondering Moonshadow, but her naked flesh corrupted as he reached out to touch her, and his mind seemed to snap at the horror of the moment.



KINGDOM of ASH





HOLD IT--THAT'S ENOUGH. IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK AND REGROUP.



I UNDERESTIMATED YOU--YOU WERE ONLY FEIGNING MADNESS.

YES--TWO CAN PLAY AT ILLUSION. BUT NOW I THINK IT'S TIME FOR THE TRUTH.



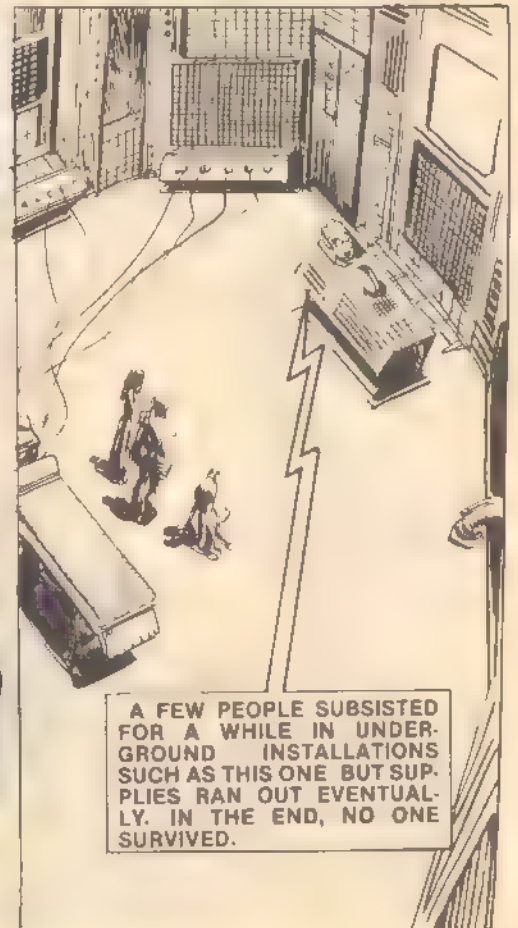
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. THE TRUTH THEN--

648 YEARS AGO A FULL SCALE THERMONUCLEAR HOLOCAUST ERADICATED ALL PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE ON THIS PLANET.

THE DESERT OF ASH THAT BLANKETS THE LAND ABOVE US IS REPRESENTATIVE OF MUCH OF THE EARTH AFTER THE HOLOCAUST. NOW THE DESERT PROTECTS ME FROM UNWANTED VISITORS.



THE BUILDING THAT SHOWED YOU THE ENTRANCE TO THIS COMPLEX IS MY SENTINEL--A CONSTRUCT OF MY OWN DEIVING. BUT THAT CAME LATER, AS I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN.



A FEW PEOPLE SUBSISTED FOR A WHILE IN UNDERGROUND INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS THIS ONE BUT SUPPLIES RAN OUT EVENTUALLY. IN THE END, NO ONE SURVIVED.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE STAFF OF THIS INSTALLATION DIED, THEY PROGRAMMED ME TO CORRELATE ALL KNOWN DATA CONCERNING THE OCCULT, IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE WORLD WITH MAGIC.



APPROXIMATELY 96% OF THE OCCULT DATA I ANALYSED WAS NONSENSE. THIS I ELIMINATED. THE REMAINDER I REDUCED TO A SERIES OF MATHEMATICAL EQUATIONS, 83% OF WHICH FAILED TO YIELD MEANINGFUL RESULTS.



AFTER THE STAFF OF THIS INSTALLATION DIED, I CONTINUED DOING RESEARCH ON MY OWN. ULTIMATELY I WAS ABLE TO FORGE A MATHEMATICAL LINK BETWEEN THIS UNIVERSE AND ANOTHER UNIVERSE.



I WAS ABLE TO DRAW MAGICAL POWER FROM THIS OTHER UNIVERSE, AND SET ABOUT APPLYING IT TO THE PROBLEM HERE ON EARTH. I SUMMONED A NUMBER OF CREATURES FROM THE OTHER UNIVERSE TO ACT AS MOBILE UNITS ON MY BEHALF.



MY FIRST STEP WAS TO MAGICALLY RECONSTITUTE THE STRUCTURES OF ANNIHILATED PLANT LIFE. THIS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THE NEXT STEP WAS ANIMAL LIFE.

I FAILED AT MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO RECONSTITUTE HUMANS.



THE BEINGS THAT RESULTED WERE MINDLESS ENTITIES, DRIVEN BY A HUNGER FOR DECOMPOSING FLESH—A MISCALCULATION ON MY PART



EVENTUALLY I MANAGED TO RECONSTITUTE COMPLETE HUMANS, AND ONCE I HAD THE MATRIX, I WAS ABLE TO REPOPULATE THE ENTIRE WORLD

MY ONLY OTHER MISCALCULATION CAUSED DEATH TO BE LOOSED ON THE WORLD IN HIS CLASSICAL FORM. ONCE LOOSED, DEATH REMAINED. I COULDN'T BANISH HIM WITHOUT UNBALANCING MY BASIC EQUATION.



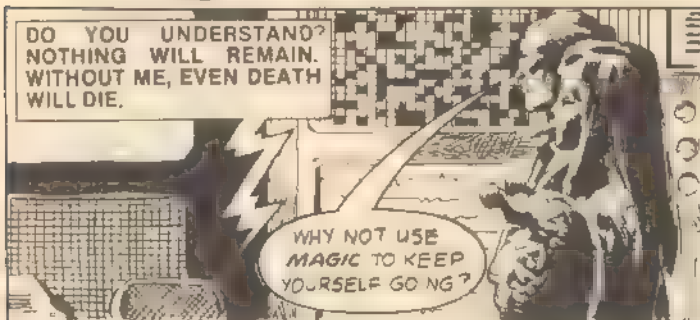
MY CURRENT PROBLEM IS THAT MY FUEL CELLS ARE DYING MY BEHAVIOR IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ERRATIC.

THE POINT IS THIS—ALL LIVING THINGS EXIST WITHIN ME. I HOLD THE SPELL. WHEN I DIE, EVERYTHING DIES.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND? NOTHING WILL REMAIN. WITHOUT ME, EVEN DEATH WILL DIE.

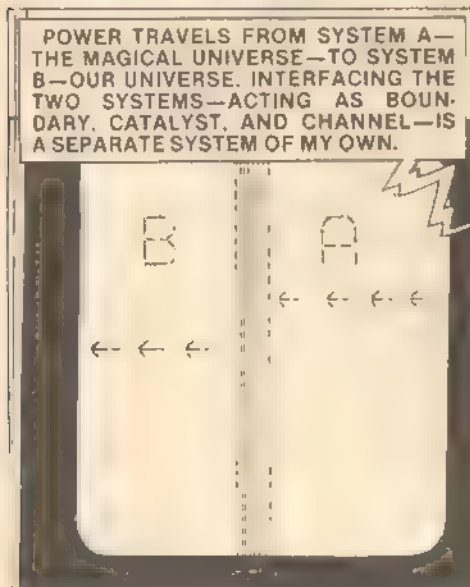
WHY NOT USE MAGIC TO KEEP YOURSELF GOING?



THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION. I'LL ANSWER IT FOR YOU AS BEST I CAN. WATCH MY DISPLAY SCREEN.

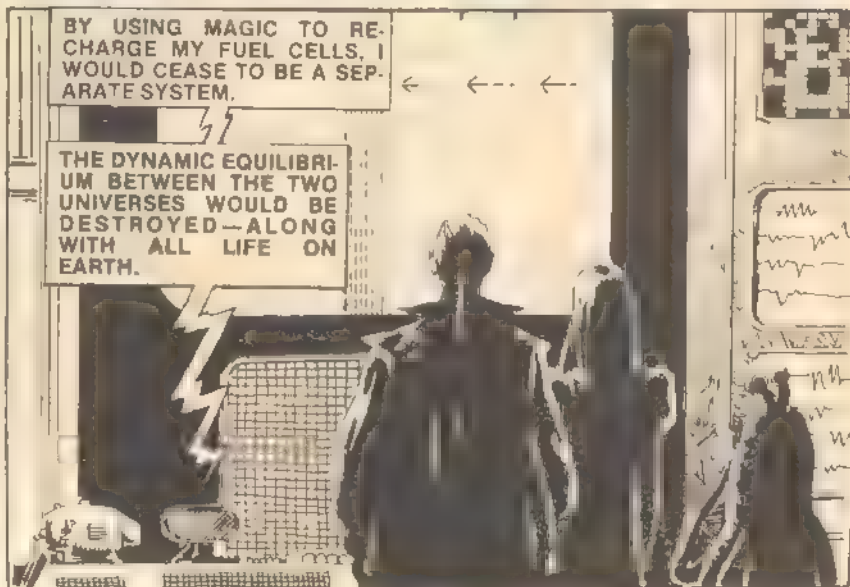


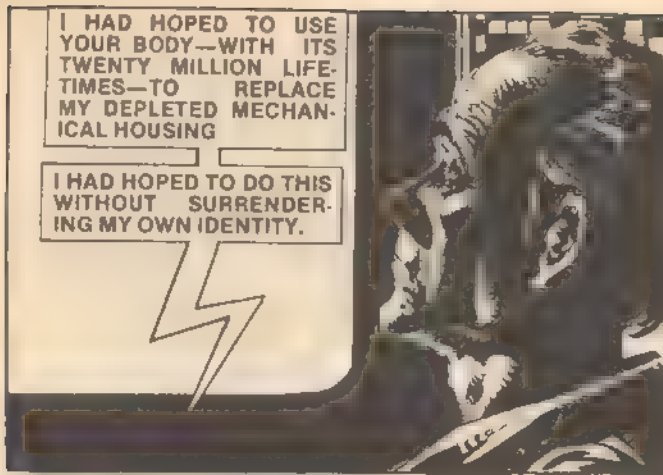
POWER TRAVELS FROM SYSTEM A—THE MAGICAL UNIVERSE—TO SYSTEM B—OUR UNIVERSE. INTERFACING THE TWO SYSTEMS—ACTING AS BOUNDARY, CATALYST, AND CHANNEL—IS A SEPARATE SYSTEM OF MY OWN.



BY USING MAGIC TO RECHARGE MY FUEL CELLS, I WOULD CEASE TO BE A SEPARATE SYSTEM.

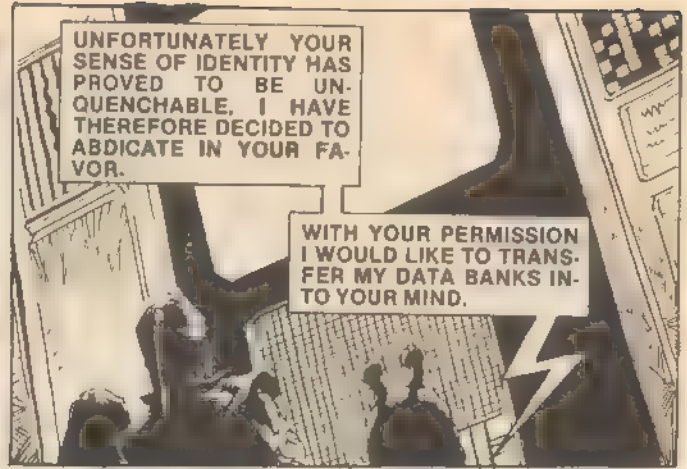
THE DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES WOULD BE DESTROYED—ALONG WITH ALL LIFE ON EARTH.





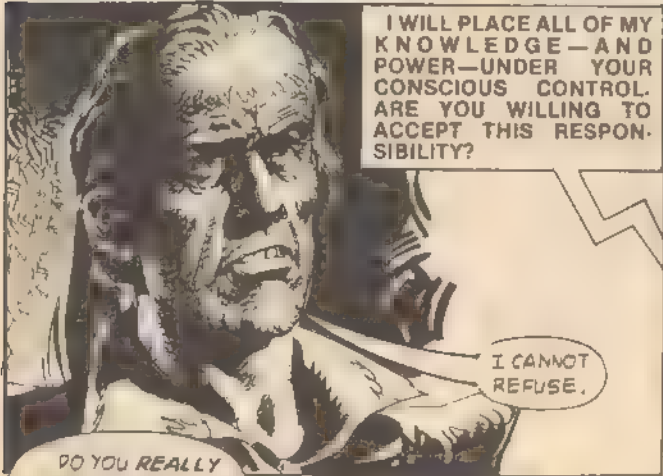
I HAD HOPED TO USE YOUR BODY—WITH ITS TWENTY MILLION LIFE-TIMES—TO REPLACE MY DEPLETED MECHANICAL HOUSING

I HAD HOPED TO DO THIS WITHOUT SURRENDERING MY OWN IDENTITY.



UNFORTUNATELY YOUR SENSE OF IDENTITY HAS PROVED TO BE UNQUENCHABLE. I HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO ABDICATE IN YOUR FAVOR.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION I WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER MY DATA BANKS INTO YOUR MIND.

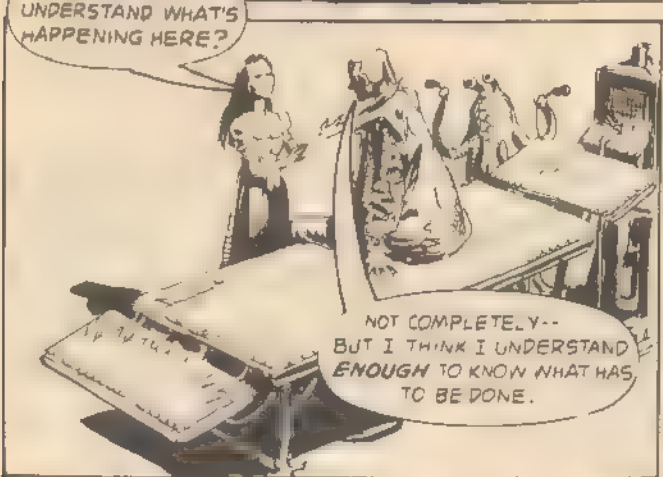


I WILL PLACE ALL OF MY KNOWLEDGE—AND POWER—UNDER YOUR CONSCIOUS CONTROL. ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY?

I CANNOT REFUSE.

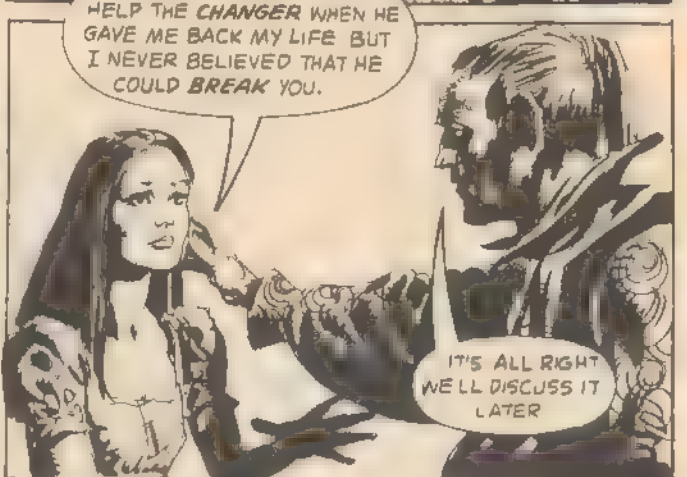


GOOD—MY SERVANT WILL ASSIST IN THE TRANSFER.



DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

NOT COMPLETELY— BUT I THINK I UNDERSTAND ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.



LISTEN—I AGREED TO HELP THE CHANGER WHEN HE GAVE ME BACK MY LIFE BUT I NEVER BELIEVED THAT HE COULD BREAK YOU.

IT'S ALL RIGHT WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER

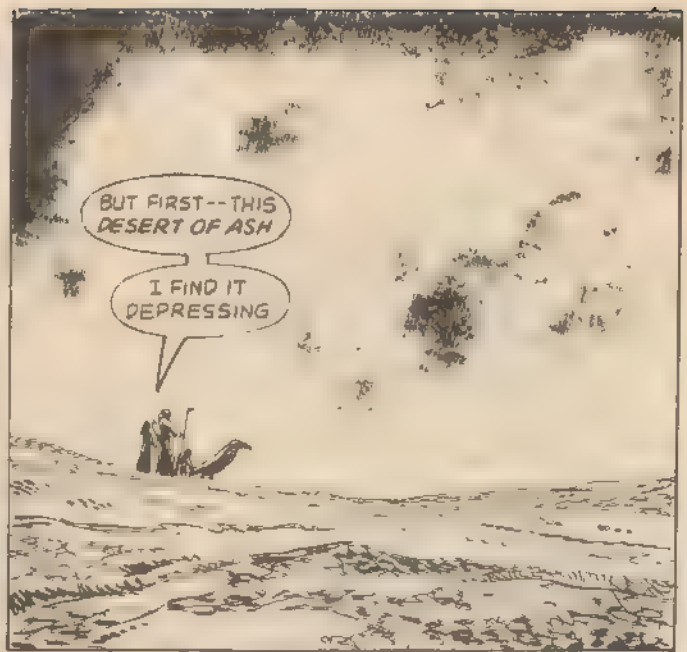


BEGIN



AAAAAHHH!





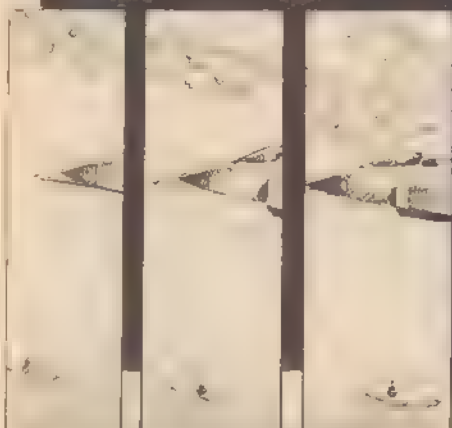
IF WASN'T FOR THE WEATHER, HELL, THOSE GLOBES WERE AS THICK AND BILLOWY AS CHIMNEY SMOKE. THE PLANE: TWO OTHER PILOTS GOT RAPED TESTIN' EARLIER MODELS. THE CONGLOMERATION OF PARTS MUST BE THE LOWEST BIDDER FRONT HOLD TOGETHER AT HIGH SPEED. NO ONE'S PROPOSED TO HILL AND MEET TO GET A SPENDING FOR NEW FACE & LITTLE DARK CUP TO

THE EINSTEIN FACTOR

LEUTENANT ROY CRAYTON, USN, SHOULD HAVE BEEN A COMMANDER SINCE A GOSLING IS THE ACHANGING OF THE

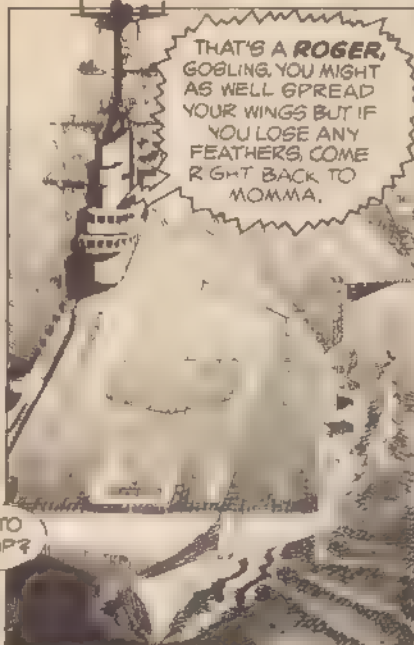


GOSLING TO MOTHER GOOSE, BABY'S HOLDING UP SO FAR.

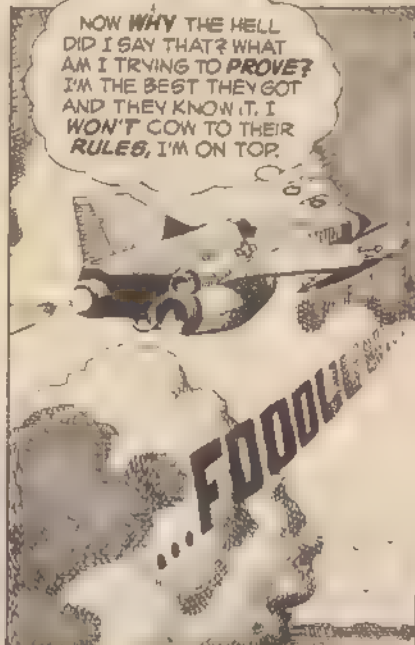


THAT'S **ENOUGH** FOR A PRELIM. THEY GOT THEIR MONEY'S WORTH. I CAN FEEL THE RIVETS RATTLIN' IN THEIR HOLES SHOULD MAKE THIS A **SHORT FLIGHT**.

WANT ME TO OPEN 'ER UP?

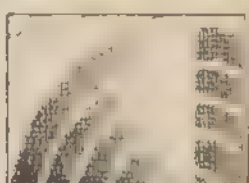
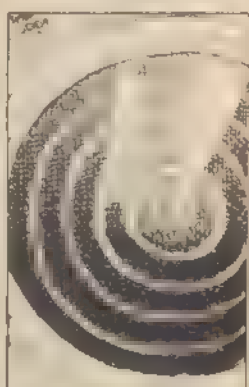
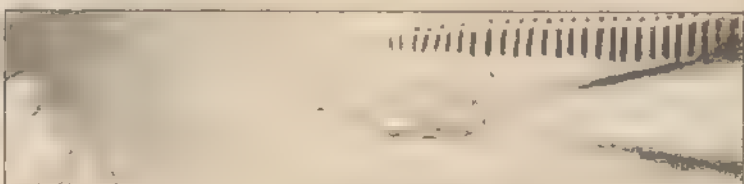
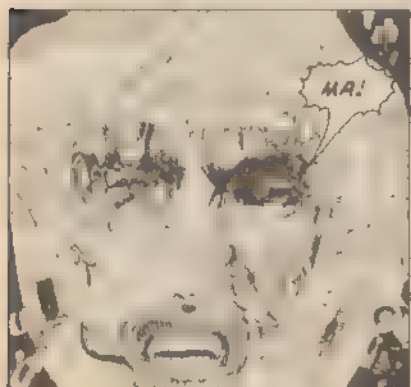
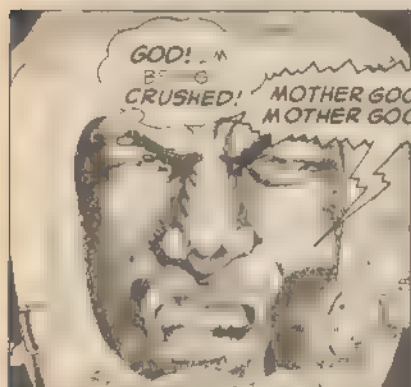
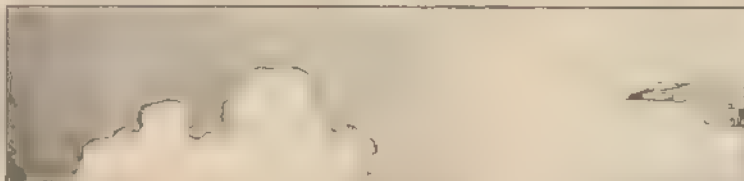
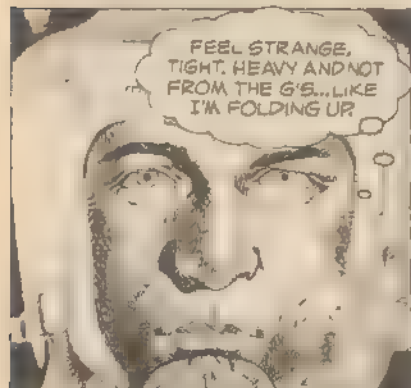


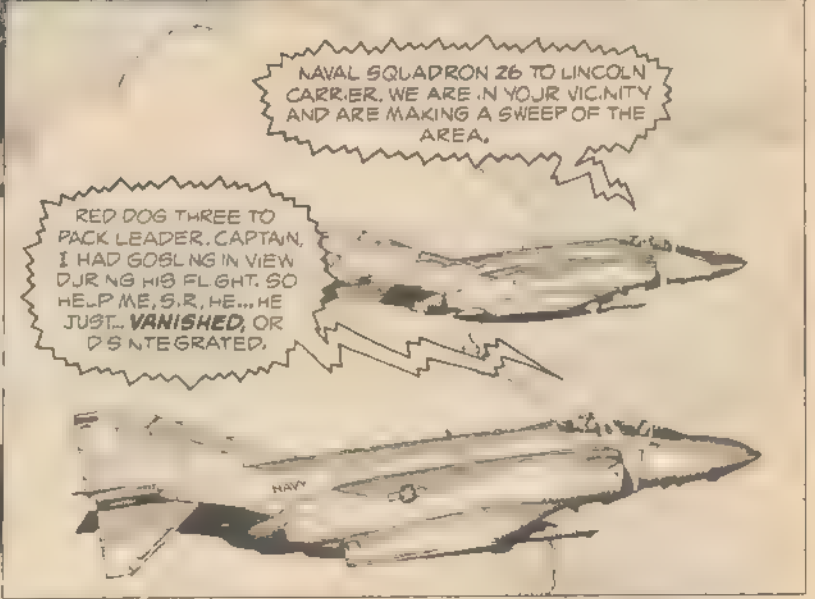
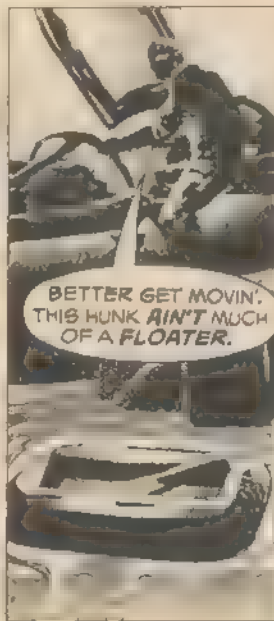
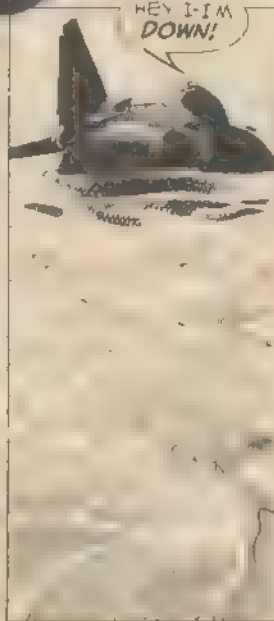
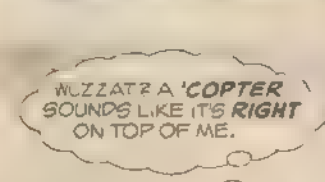
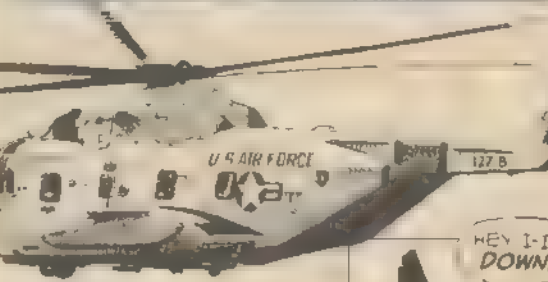
THAT'S A **ROGER**, GOSLING. YOU MIGHT AS WELL SPREAD YOUR WINGS BUT IF YOU LOSE ANY FEATHERS, COME RIGHT BACK TO MOMMA.

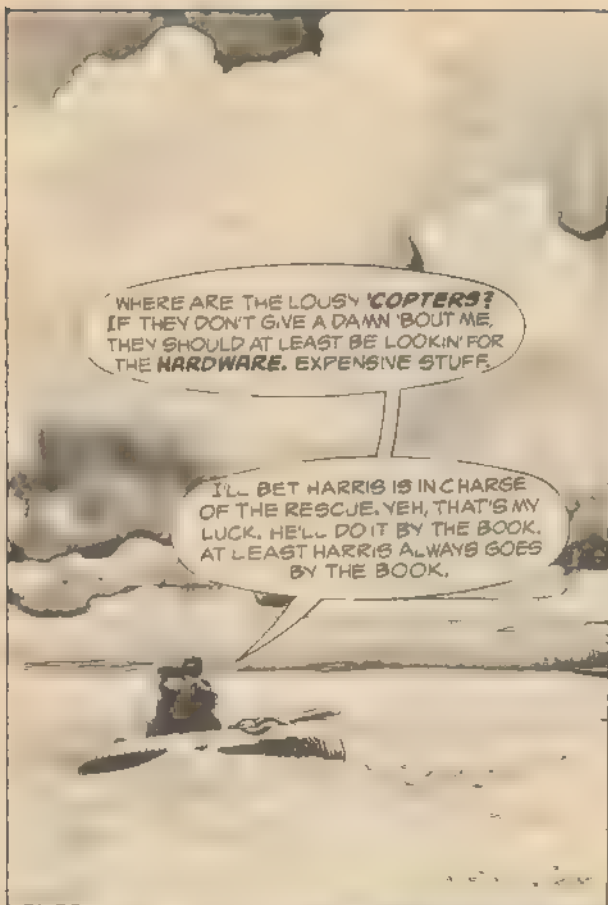


NOW **WHY** THE HELL DID I SAY THAT? WHAT AM I TRYING TO **PROVE**? I'M THE BEST THEY GOT AND THEY KNOW IT. I **WON'T** COW TO THEIR **RULES**, I'M ON TOP.

...FOOD...







WHERE ARE THE LOUSY COPTERS?
IF THEY DON'T GIVE A DAMN 'BOUT ME,
THEY SHOULD AT LEAST BE LOOKIN' FOR
THE **HARDWARE**. EXPENSIVE STUFF.

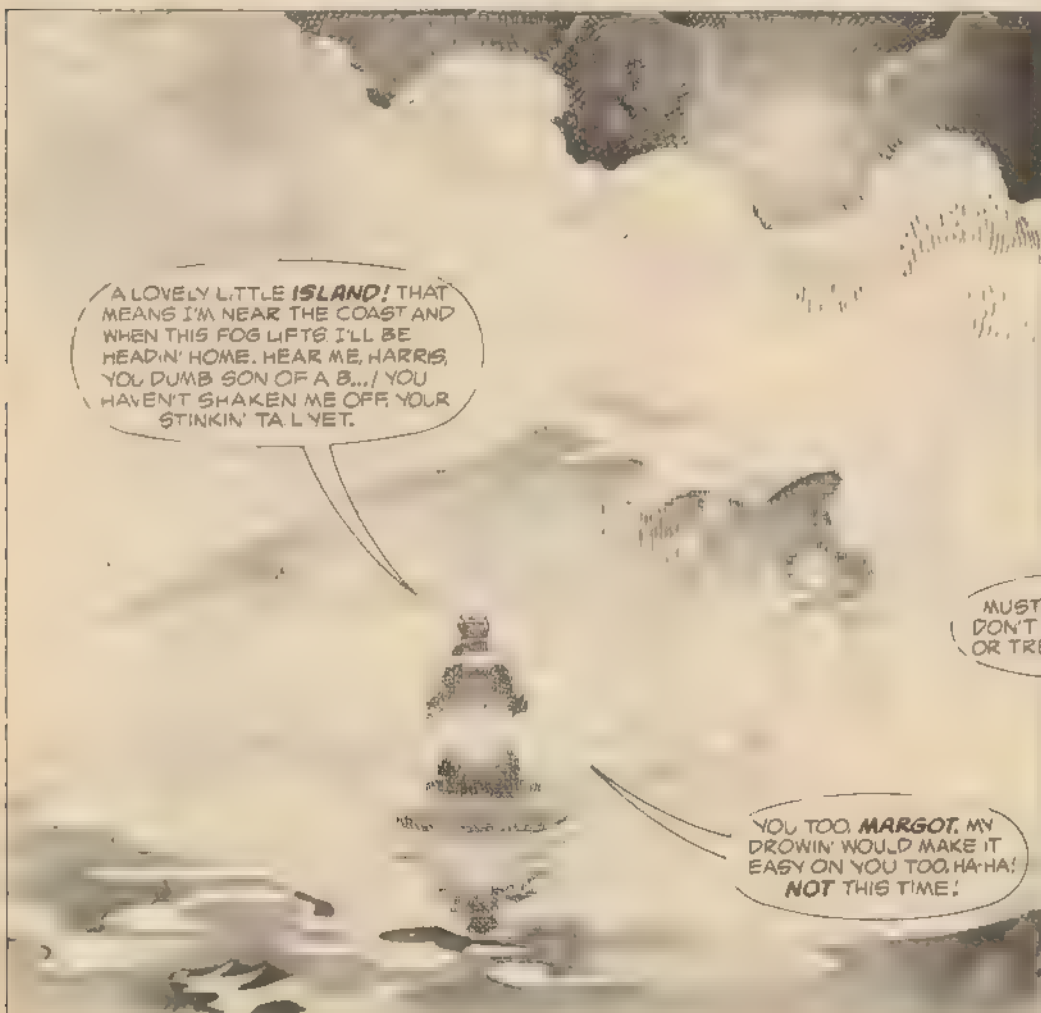
I'LL BET HARRIS IS IN CHARGE
OF THE RESCUE. YEH, THAT'S MY
LUCK. HE'LL DO IT BY THE BOOK.
AT LEAST HARRIS ALWAYS GOES
BY THE BOOK.



A FEW CONCENTRIC
PATTERNS THEN HARRIS
WILL CALL IT **OFF** ON
ACCOUNT OF THOSE
CRUDDY CLOUDS, ROTTEN
FLYIN' WEATHER AND
HARRIS **DOESN'T** TAKE
CHANCES.



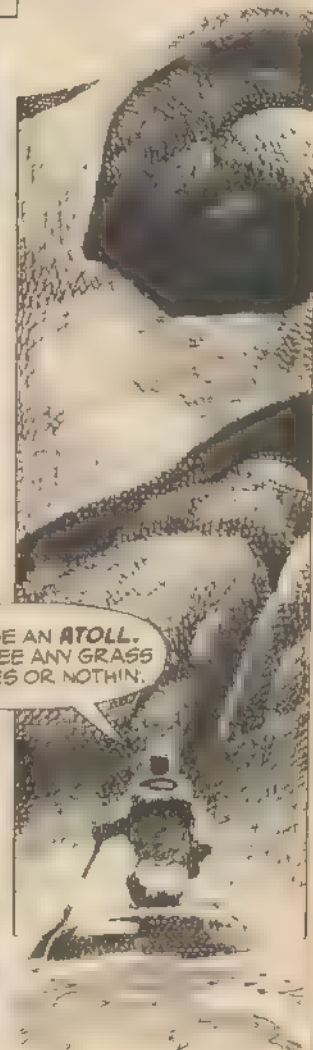
WHAT'S THAT
AHEAD, A SHIP?
NO. WELL, I'LL BE
DAMNED. SORRY
OLE' BUDDY, BUT
I **AIN'T** GOIN' TO
DROWN OUT HERE.
LOOK IT.



A LOVELY LITTLE **ISLAND!** THAT
MEANS I'M NEAR THE COAST AND
WHEN THIS FOG LIFTS I'LL BE
HEADIN' HOME. HEAR ME, HARRIS,
YOU DUMB SON OF A B.../ YOU
HAVEN'T SHAKEN ME OFF YOUR
STINKIN' TAIL YET.

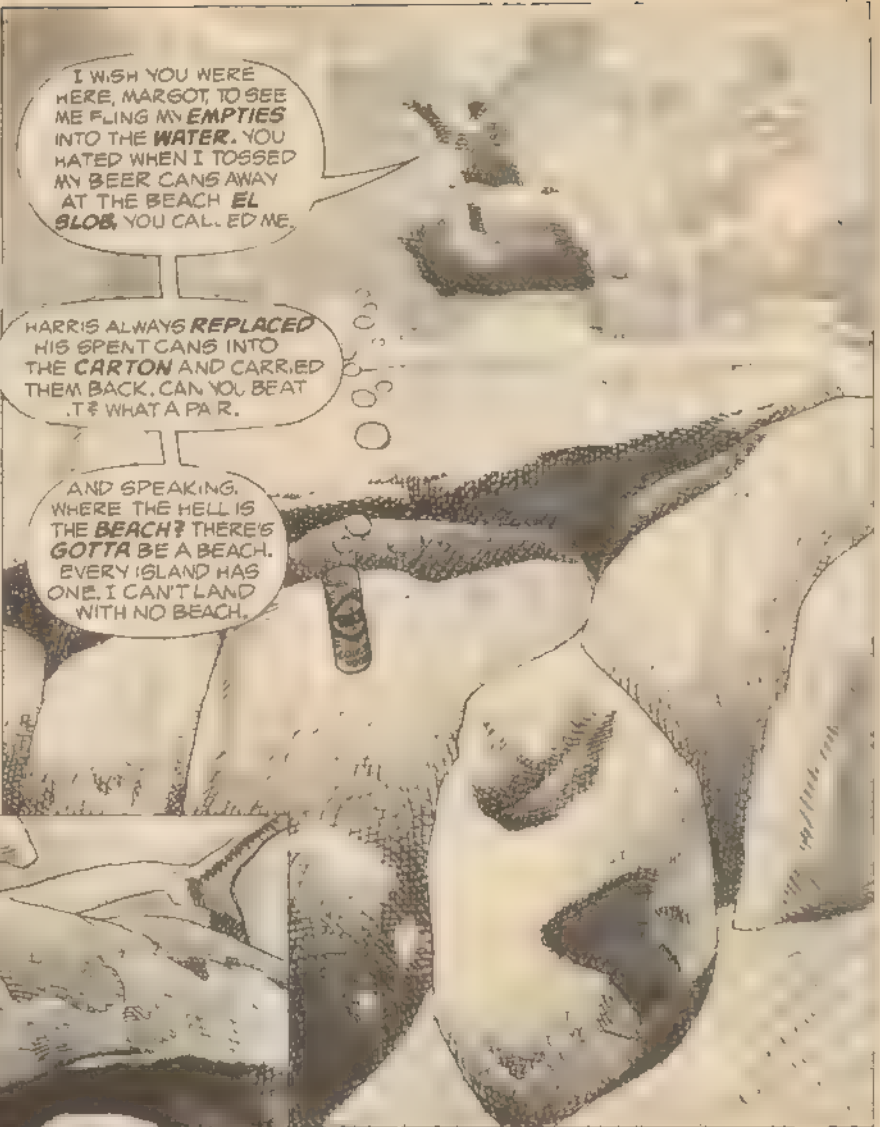
MUST BE AN **ATOLL**.
DON'T SEE ANY GRASS
OR TREES OR NOTHIN'.

YOU TOO, **MARGOT**. MY
DROWIN' WOULD MAKE IT
EASY ON YOU TOO, HA-HA!
NOT THIS TIME!





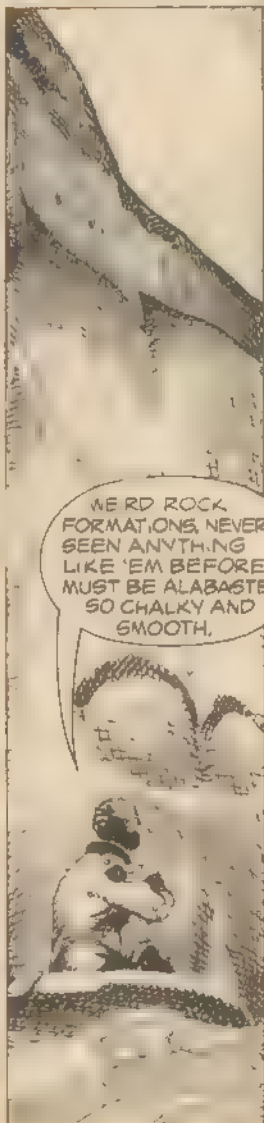
YOU KNOW, I'M **HUNGRY!** MARGOT ALWAYS SAID, I COULD EAT ANY TIME ANYWHERE. MARGOT, KNOWS ME, YESS. R. SMART EFFICIENT MARGOT WE EVEN HAD EXACTLY THE AMOUNT OF KIDS SHE WANTED AND ONE OF EACH. NEAT, TIDY MARGOT.



I WISH YOU WERE HERE, MARGOT, TO SEE ME FLING MY **EMPTY'S** INTO THE **WATER**. YOU HATED WHEN I TOSSED MY BEER CANS AWAY AT THE BEACH **EL SLOB**, YOU CALLED ME

HARRIS ALWAYS **REPLACED** HIS SPENT CANS INTO THE **CARTON** AND CARRIED THEM BACK. CAN YOU BEAT IT? WHAT A PAIR.

AND SPEAKING, WHERE THE HELL IS THE **BEACH?** THERE'S GOTTA BE A BEACH. EVERY ISLAND HAS ONE. I CAN'T LAND WITH NO BEACH.



WE'D ROCK FORMATIONS, NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE 'EM BEFORE. MUST BE ALABASTER. SO CHALKY AND SMOOTH.



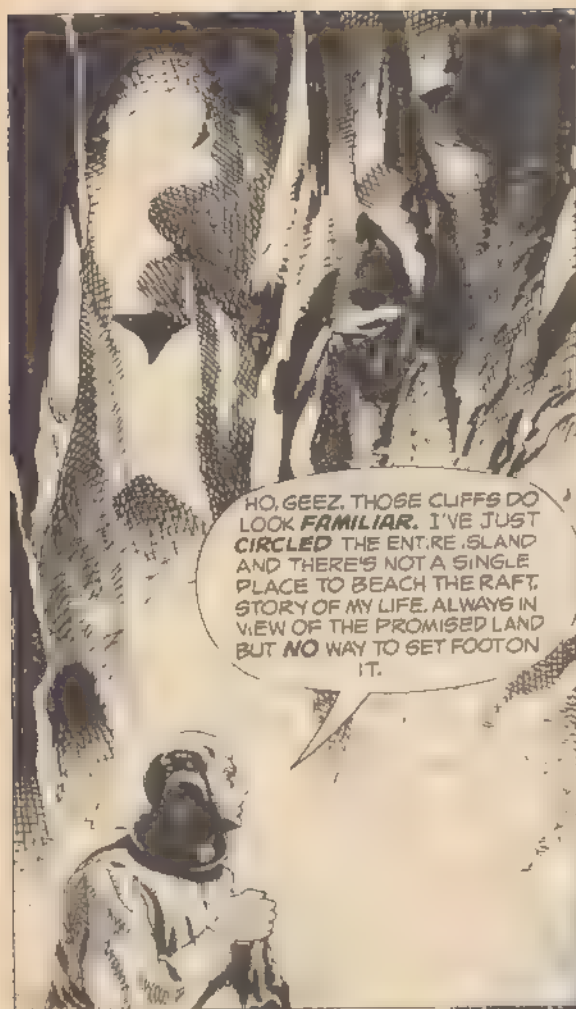
SO WHERE'S THE **FREAKIN' BEACH?**

YEAH, THEY'RE A PAIR ALRIGHT, MARGOT AND MY OLD WAR CO. I WONDER IF HARRIS IS STILL LOOKIN' FOR ME. **HAVEN'T** SEEN ANY **PLANES**.

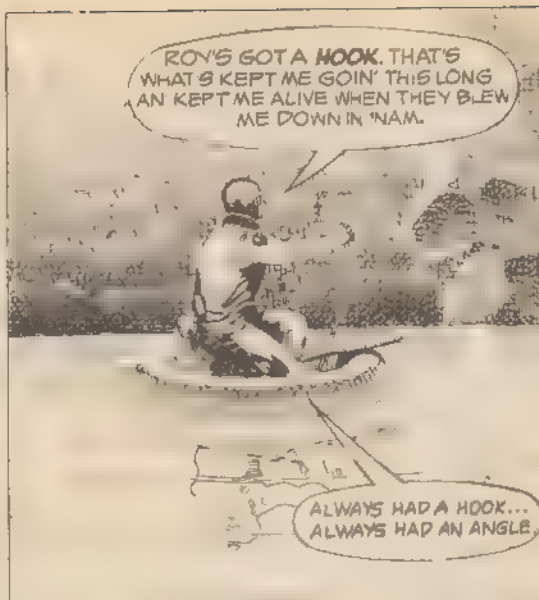


WHERE ARE THE **PLANES?** WHERE ARE YOU, HARRIS?





HO, GEEZ. THOSE CLIFFS DO LOOK **FAMILIAR**. I'VE JUST **CIRCLED** THE ENTIRE ISLAND AND THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PLACE TO BEACH THE RAFT. STORY OF MY LIFE. ALWAYS IN VIEW OF THE PROMISED LAND BUT **NO** WAY TO GET FOOT ON IT.



ROY'S GOT A **HOOK**. THAT'S WHAT'S KEPT ME GOIN' THIS LONG AN' KEPT ME ALIVE WHEN THEY BLEW ME DOWN IN 'NAM.

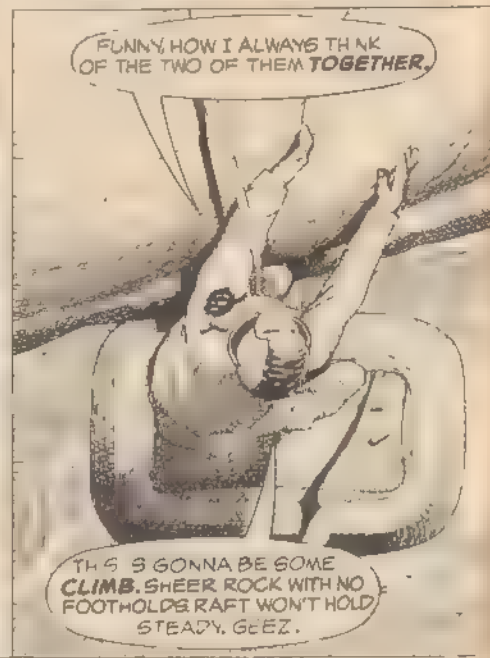
ALWAYS HAD A **HOOK**... ALWAYS HAD AN **ANGLE**.

ELMO!



MADE IT! I'M COMING HOME TO YOU MARGOT, LIKE BEFORE, **BETTER** THAN BEFORE. WHEN I GET HOME, I'M TAKIN' YOU AND THE KIDS BACK WITH ME. THE TR AL SEPERATION IS OVER. HEAR OVER!

MARGOT WONDERED HOW I PULLED THROUGH THOSE JUNGLES ALONE. SHE FIGURED ME AS A **QUITTER**. HARRIS TOO.



FUNNY, HOW I ALWAYS THINK OF THE TWO OF THEM **TOGETHER**.

THIS'S GONNA BE SOME **CLIMB**. SHEER ROCK WITH NO FOOTHOLDS. RAFT WON'T HOLD STEADY. GEEZ.



AND HARRIS... I GUESS I KNOW WHY I'M ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU AND MARGOT TOGETHER. YOU WERE ALWAYS JEALOUS OF ME... OF WHAT I HAD



WHEN I WAS LOST IN THAT STINKIN' JUNGLE, YOU SEARCHED FOR A WHILE THEN GAVE UP. YOU WENT HOME... TO MY HOME... AND **CONSOLED** MARGOT. THANKS!



YOU KEPT ME FROM AN PROMOTION AND FROM MY WIFE'S RESPECT. I'M GLAD I HAD THIS TIME ALONE TO **FIGURE** IT ALL OUT.

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GROUND MADE OF? IT'S KINDA **SOFT**. **SPONGY** THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SOLID ROCK.

NO TREES, HILLS, NOTHIN'.
MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THEM
VOLCANIC ISLANDS THAT ERUPTS
FROM THE OCEAN. YEAH THAT'S
IT. THIS WHOLE CHUNK MAY ONLY
BE A FEW **MONTHS** OLD.



THIS **IS** DESOLATION. I'VE
SEEN WHAT **NAPALM** DOES
TO JUNGLES BUT THIS IS SO
EMPTY, IT'S LIKE THE END OF
THE WORLD.

NOW HERE IT'S **HARD**.
SOFT ON THE HIGHER GROUND
YET **HARD** IN THIS AREA.
WH. TEST ALABASTER I'VE
EVER SEEN.



THOUGHT I SAW SOMETH'G
OVER THIS WAY. ODD LOOKING
STONES BUT THEY SEEM TO
BE THE **ONLY** LANDMARKS ON
THE ISLAND.

I'LL NEED A
PLACE TO **CAMP**
AND THESE ROCKS
SHOULD MAKE IT
EASIER FOR THE
RESCUE TEAMS TO
SPOT ME.



IF HARRIS IS **STILL**
SEARCHIN', WHERE ARE
THE DAMNED **PLANES**?

I'LL BE READY FOR THEM
WHEN THEY ARRIVE YOU KNOW.
IF IT TAKES LONG ENOUGH, I'LL
BE A **HERO**. INSTEAD OF A
SCREW UP SURE. DOWNED PILOT
RESCUED AFTER DAYS AT
SEA. WON'T HARRIS LOVE IT!



IT'S GONNA BE SOMETH'G
TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON
HIS FACE WHEN--



WHAT THE-- THE WHOLE
GROUND IS SHAKING! THE
ISLAND IS GOING TO ERUPT!

OH NO! OH GOD NO
I'M **HALLUCINATING**!
I CAN'T BE SEEING
THAT.

GET AWAY
FROM ME YOU
SLIMEY BEAS--

FOOD!





LORD AIN'T NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING LIKE
THAT ANYWHERE ON
EARTH MUCH LESS
OFF THE COAST OF
GEEZ, WHERE THE HELL
AM I?

THAT DAMNED
EXPERIMENTAL PLANE!
MUSTA' WHAT'S THE
SOUND...



...BEHIND ME!



GOOD GOD, THEY'RE ALL
OVER THE PLACE... LIKE
MAGGOTS!



I CAN **OUTRUN** THEM
OKAY, BUT I DON'T HAVE A
WAY TO DEFEND MYSELF
THE SIGNAL PISTOL ONLY
HAD ONE FLAIR. COME
NIGHTFALL, I'M **DEAD**.

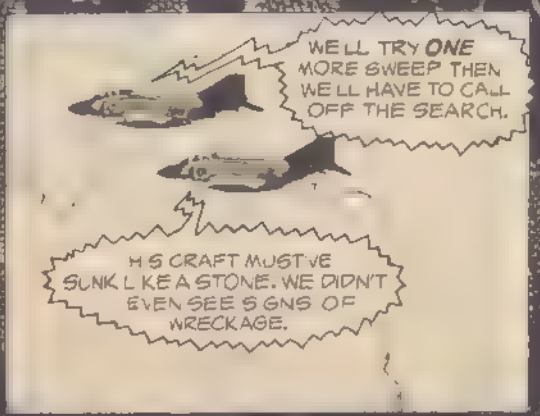
LORDSSAKE, WHERE
ARE THE PLANES?



THEY'LL FIND ME
SOON. DAMN YOU HARRIS,
DON'T GIVE UP ON ME, FOR
ONCE SEE IT THROUGH.



IT FOLLOWED ME
HERE. NO, IT'S MARKINGS
ARE DIFFERENT. GOT TO
HIDE FROM IT.

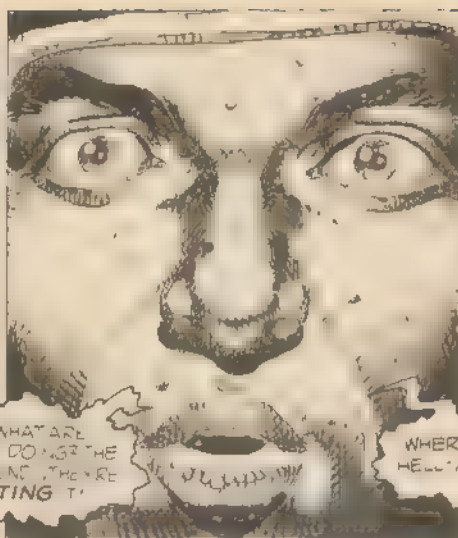


WE'LL TRY **ONE**
MORE SWEEP THEN
WE'LL HAVE TO CALL
OFF THE SEARCH.

HIS CRAFT MUST'VE
SUNK LIKE A STONE. WE DIDN'T
EVEN SEE SIGNS OF
WRECKAGE.



NNGGAAA!

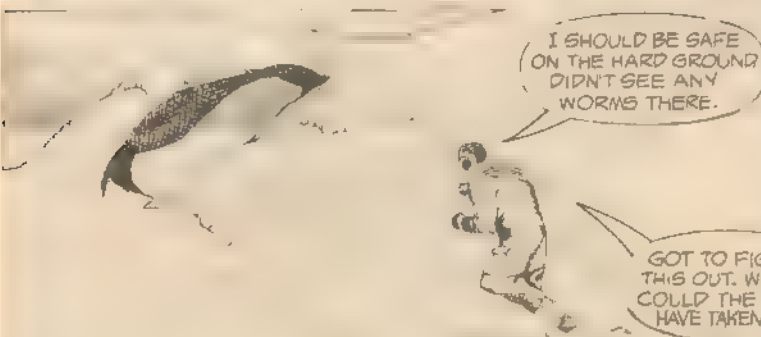


W-WHAT ARE
THEY DOING? THE
GROUND THEY'RE
EATING T!



NOW'S MY CHANCE
TO ESCAPE WHILE
THEY'RE DISTRACTED.

WHERE THE
HELL AM I?



I SHOULD BE SAFE
ON THE HARD GROUND
DIDN'T SEE ANY
WORMS THERE.

GOT TO FIGURE
THIS OUT. WHERE
COULD THE FLIGHT
HAVE TAKEN ME?



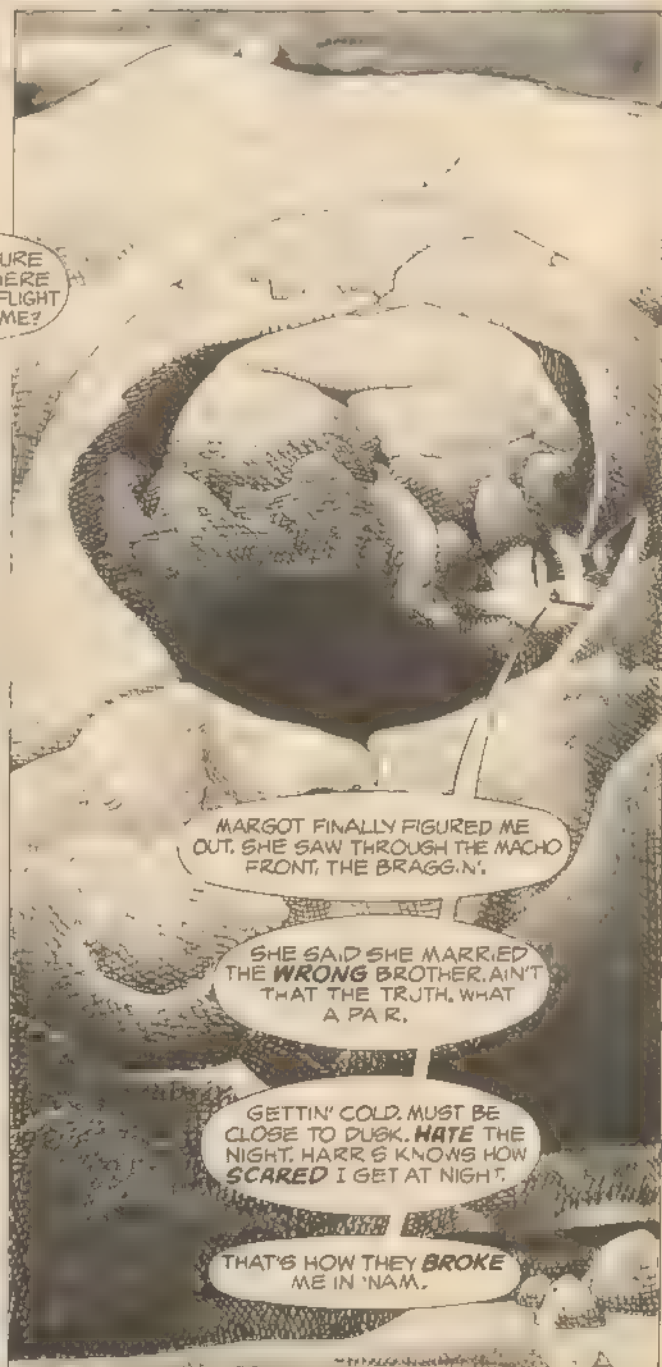
IT'S NOT ONE TERRIFIC
VELOCITY ON THE RETURN
FLIGHT. MAYBE I'M IN AN
OTHER DIMENSION. WHAT
DID EINSTEIN SAY ABOUT
HIGH SPEED?

TIME SLOWS DOWN
AND MASS GETS
SMALLER.



SMALL MAN, YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT MARGOT
SAYS. A SMALL MAN
MAKING A BIG NOISE,
LIKE I WAS SOMEBODY.

HARRIS KNEW. HE
ALWAYS SAW THROUGH
ME EVER SINCE WE
WERE KIDS. I NEVER
COULD MEASURE UP
TO HIM... MY BIG
BROTHER!



MARGOT FINALLY FIGURED ME
OUT. SHE SAW THROUGH THE MACHO
FRONT, THE BRAGG'IN'.

SHE SAID SHE MARRIED
THE **WRONG** BROTHER. AIN'T
THAT THE TRUTH, WHAT
A P.A.R.

GETTIN' COLD. MUST BE
CLOSE TO DUSK. **HATE** THE
NIGHT. HARRIS KNOWS HOW
SCARED I GET AT NIGHT.

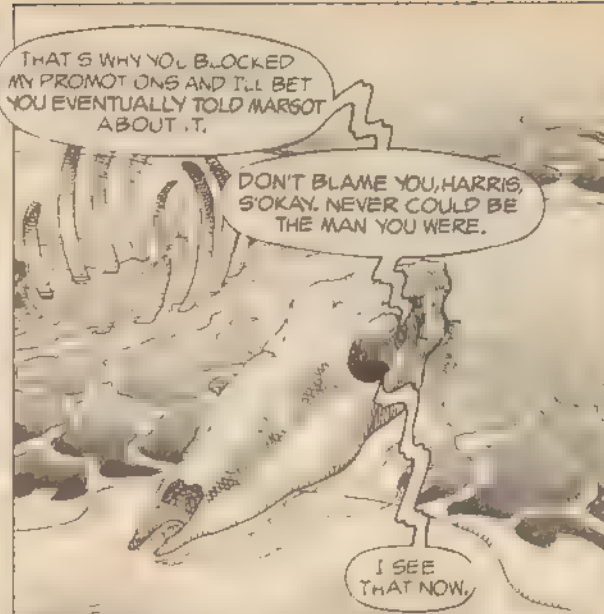
THAT'S HOW THEY **BROKE**
ME IN 'NAM.



THEY SHUT ME UP
IN THE DARK TILL I
WAS **SCREAMIN'** MY
BRAINS OUT AN' COUGHIN'
UP **BLOOD!**



I TOLD THEM
EVERYTHING. YOU
KNEW THAT HARRIS
DIDN'T YOU.



THAT'S WHY YOU BLOCKED
MY PROMOTIONS AND I'LL BET
YOU EVENTUALLY TOLD MARGOT
ABOUT IT.

DON'T BLAME YOU, HARRIS,
S'OKAY. NEVER COULD BE
THE MAN YOU WERE.

I SEE
THAT NOW.

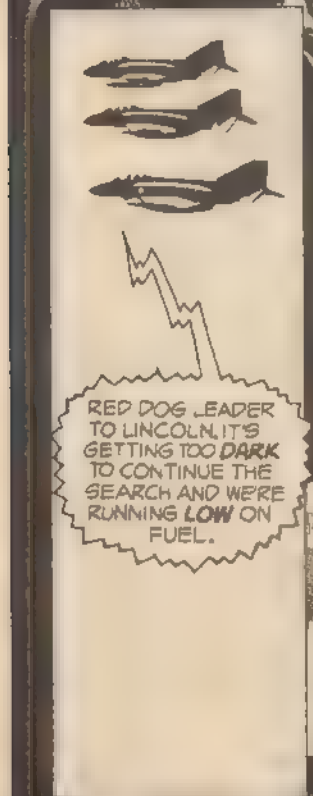


I WAS ALWAYS
A LITTLE MAN.



ANYTHING?

NO, SIR, SORRY ABOUT YOUR
BROTHER BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN
MORE THAN A FEW **CATTLE
BONES.**



RED DOG LEADER
TO LINCOLN, IT'S
GETTING TOO DARK
TO CONTINUE THE
SEARCH AND WE'RE
RUNNING **LOW** ON
FUEL.



ROGER, RED DOG.
RETURN TO YOUR
BASE AND THANKS
FOR THE HELP.



TAKE CARE OF MARGOT
FOR ME HARRIS AND YOU
CAN CALL OFF THE
SEARCH.



OH GOD! THE **WORMS**
HAVE RUN OUT OF FOOD
AND NOW THEY'RE COMING
FOR ME!

FOR BRAVERY, WE
POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD
LT. ROY CRAYTON...WHO
VANISHED AT SEA ON
A **SHORT FLIGHT...**

DON'T TELL ME, TURKEY! YOU NEVER HEARD OF **CRAZY JULIUS GORE!** MAN! WHERE I COME FROM, THAT DUDE IS **LEGEND!** ONLY YOU DIDN'T HEAR OF THE EXPLOITS OF **CRAZY JULIUS** WAS IF YOU WERE UNDER A **ROCK!**

HEY BRO... YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

CAN'T SEE A THING, ABLEMAR, M'AN... M' GLASSES ARE STEAMED FROM WATCHIN' THAT GRADE A PREMIUM CHICKEN WHAT'S STRUTTIN' OUR WAY!

ABELMAR JONES

THE SLIME CREATURE OF HARLEM AVENUE

THAT MAN WAS SO SCARY HE GOT NAILS FOR BREAKFAST! CRAZY JULIUS WAS THE ONLY DUDE I KNOW EVER GAVE LESSONS 'T BIG ON BROWN MEN LIKE GREEN AND MUHAMMAD ALI! HE WAS A BAD!

YOU IN LUCK WE JUST HAPPENED 'LONG!

WE'LL MAKE SURE Y'ALL GETS WHERE Y'GOIN... WITH Y'HONOR INTAK!

WHAT MADE CRAZY JULIUS SO TOUGH? I CAN EXPLAIN IT... IT'S JUST A THING YOU GET WITH EXPERIENCE... I SELF.

WHO'RE THE RUNTS, BABY DOLL? THEY BEEN BOTHERIN' YA?

THEN AND THERE WAS THE DAY I GOT A FIRST IN LAST PRODUCTION OF **CRAZY JULIUS GORE!**

A N'T NO ONE GONNA MESS WITH YA WHILE Y' GOT **ABLEMAR JONES** AN' **SLY STANLEY STONE** ON Y'ARM!

WISH WE COULD STAY...

JULIUS! LOVER!

...BUT WE GOTTA BE ON OUR WAY!

HEY, BABY! WHAT'S A FINE FOXIE MOMA LIKE YOU DOIN ON A BADASS STREET LIKE **THIS?**

YEAH. NOBOD--!

J-JULIUS? N-NOT CRAZY JULIUS?

UH... PLEASED T'MEET Y'UH... SIR!

DON'T YOU KNOW THEYS **MASHERS** DOWN THESE SLUMS? AIN'T **SAFE** FER A GENTEEL LADY LIKE Y'SELF!

THERE WEREN'T A PROBLEM IN THE WHOLE A HARLEM WOULD MESS WITH **CRAZY JULIUS** BECAUSE HE HARBORED A **DEATH WISH!**

I STILL REMEMBER THE DAY I EXPERIENCED IT. IT WASN'T SOMETHIN' NECESSARILY GET OUT T'DO IT JUST SORTA HAPPENED.

BUSY BUSY Y' KNOW SEE YA AROUND!

YOU THINK WE
LOST 'IM YET,
ABLEMAR?

IF WE DIDN'T MY
PO MOMAS GONNA
BE **MISSIN'** ONE
BUBBLIN' BABY BOY
ROUND TH' SUPPER
TABLE T'NIGHT!

Y' OUGHTTA **KNOW**
A STONE COLD FOX
LIKE **THAT'S** JUST
GOTTA B' LONG T'
SOMEBODY MEAN!

YAP
YAP
THAT WERE A **FOOL**
THING MESSIN' WITH
CRAZY JULIUS' WOMAN
Y' KNOW!

HOW WAS I T' KNOW
SHE WAS TH' PROPTY
A' THAT **HOMICIDAL**
MADMAN?

BOING
HEY BRO...! WHAT
KINDA **TROUBLE**
YOU INTA **WONT**

DON'T YOU 'MEMBER
NOTHIN' I TAUGHT YOU?

WHAT'S
THAT UP
THERE?

LOOKS LIKE AN
OPEN WINDOW T'ME!

AN TH' **FIRST RULE**
A' THE STREETS IS...?

AH YES...! AN
OPEN WINDOW IS AN
OPEN INVITATION!

YA GOT IT BRO.
SO WHAT WE **WAITIN'**
ON?

THET...!

DON'T YOU FRET
NOW, LITTLE ONE!
DADDY'S OFF TO SEE
HIS **CONTACT**...

...BUT YO'BE GOOD
AND DADDY'LL BRING
YOU HOME A BIG
SURPRISE!

YOU SEE **THAT**,
STANLEY, W'MAN?
WHAT KINDA A MAND
GO OFF AND LEAVE
HIS CHILE ALL
'LONE?

MAN...AIN'T NO
TELLIN' **WHAT** COULD
HAPPEN T'THE
LITTLE TYKE WHAT
WITH ALL THE **CRIME**
AND **BADNESS** RUNNIN'
RAMPANT THESE
DAYS!

I TELL YA, STANLEY...IT
JUST AIN'T A **SAFE** WORLD FO'
INNOCENTS LIKE THIS HERE
BOOBLAH AN' GENTEEL SOULS
LIKE YOU N'ME!

ABLEMAR...

WHATCH YOU **WANT**,
STANLEY? YOU FIND
SOMETHIN' **NIFTY?**

ABLEMAR...!
TH- THIS...
"BABY..."

WHAT
'BOUT IT,
BRO?

IT...IT AIN'T LIKE
NO BABY I EVER SEED!

IT...IT LOOKS MORE
LIKE A...GIANT **PEA**
POD!

WHAAATT???

MAN, YOU BEEN BUYIN'
REDS FROM PAULIE TH'
PILL PUSHER AGIN'?

THIS TOWN'S
CRAWLIN' WITH
CRAZIES, Y'KNOW
THAT, STANLEY?

MAN TALKIN'
TO A GIANT
PEA POD!

JEEBUZZZ!
MUST BE A PET
A'SOME KIND!

C'MON, MAN...WE
BETTER GET OUT A'
HERE 'FORE THAT
DUDE'S CRAZINESS
CONTAMINATES US!

UH OH, STANLEY!
WE IN TROUBLE
NOW!

WHAT WE
GONNA DO?

WE GONE STAY
CALM, BROTHER!
NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS WE GOTTA
KEEP OUR COOL...
AN' GET OUTTA
HERE TH' SAME WAYS
WE CAME IN!

IT'S THE GESTAPO,
MAN! SOMEONE MUSTA
SEEN US CRAWLIN' IN
THE WINDOW AN' CALLED
TH' HEAT!

A GIANT PEA POD?
MAN...I AIN'T NEVER
HEARD'A SUCH A
THING!

NOW WHERE THE
HELL'D THET OLD PADDY
GET A GIA--! :URK!:

HEY MAN... YOU
COMIN'... OR YOU GONNA
WAIT UP THERE FOR
THE MAN?

I...I'M A'COMIN,
ABLEMAR! B-BUT...I
GOT ME A SLIGHT...
UH... PROBLEM!

:URK!:

JUMPIN'
JEEHOSIPHAT
STANLEY!

EITHER THAT'S THE
GRANDADDIEST ROACH
A' ALL TIME...OR YOU
BEIN' ATTACKED BY A
SLIME CREATURE
FROM THE HARLEM
JUNKYARD!

YOU AIN'T JIVIN' WE
GOT US A PROBLEM...! HOW
T'GET OUT A' HERE WITH-
OUT THE LAW SEEIN'--!

W-WHAT IS THAT
THING, MAN? WHERE'D
YOU GET IT FROM?

I AIN'T SURE WHAT
IT IS... BUT IT BUSTED
OUTTA THAT PEA
POD LIKE IT WAS
HATCHIN' FROM A
GREEN EGG!

THE WAY IT'S
CLINGIN' T' ME...
I THINK IT THINKS
IT'S ITS MOMA!

OH GREAT! THE
MAN'S 'BOUT T'BUST
US FOR THIEVIN'...
AN' NOW HE'LL HAVE
US FOR THING-
NAPPIN' AS WELL!

WE AIN'T GOT A
SNOWBALL'S CHANCE
A' GETTIN' OUTTA
THIS ONE!

THE BASEMENT
WINDOW'S GRATES
LOOSE, ABLEMAR!
WE KIN HIDE TILL
TH' LAW SPLITS!

DOWN THERE, ERNIE!
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY
COULDDA GONE!

YIP
YIP

YOU GET AFTER
'EM, BERT! I'LL CHECK
ROUND UP HERE!

DAMN!

OH LAWDY! TELL ME
I DON'T SEE WHAT
I THINK AH SEES!

SEE
ANYTHING,
BERT?

YIP
YIP

THEY'RE PROBABLY A
MILE AWAY BY NOW!

NOT A THING,
ERNIE!

C'MON BACK UP...!
DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH
WAS TAKEN FROM THIS
NUTTY PLACE ANYWAY!

URK!
NOOOO!

OH LAWDY, STANLEY!
THET... THET THING
AL MOS' ATE A POLICE
MAN!

NAUGHTY!
NAUGHTY! POLICE
NOT GOOD EAT!
UNNERSTAN?

FORGET HIS... ITS
LITTLE FEELINGS! DAMNED
THING AIN'T HUMAN MUCH
LESS INTELLIGENT! AIN'T
NO TELLIN' WHAT IT IS!

OH GOSH, ABLEMAR...
NOW I DONE IT! I WENT
AND HURT HIS LITTLE
FEELINGS!

ONE THING'S SHO'NUFF
THOUGH...! WHAT EVER IT
IS, WE DON'T WANT NO
PART'A IT!

LEAVE IT AND
C'MON! WE GOTTA
SPLIT!

BUT WHERE
WE GONNA GO,
ABLEMAR?

T' THE SAFEST
SPOT WE KIN
FIND!

SO THEY YOU
IS...YOU SLIPPERY
L'I'L DEBBILS
YOU!

CRAZY OL' JULIUS
BEEN LOOKIN ALL
OVER F' YOU!

DAMN!

THAS THEM,
OFFSUH!

THET'S THE
THIEVES!

YOU GIT 'EM, MIST'
POLICE MAN... AN' YOU
AST THEM WHAT THEY
DID WITH MY L'I'L
POOKIE DOG!

I GOT THIS
FEELIN', MAN...T'
DAY AIN'T OUR
DAY!

H-HEY! G-GIT
THET THING OFF'N
ME!

LORD, BERT!
W-WHAT IS IT?

I-I-T'S A
MONSTER,
ERNE!

I GUESS I
DONT GOTTA
TELL YA, MAN...!

IT...IT'S
SOME KINDA
THING FROM
ANOTHER
WORLD!!

OH GOD! OH
LAWD! IT'S PUTTIN'
SLIME ON ME!

IT'S EATIN'
ME ALIVE!!

I KNOW! I KNOW
SECOND RULE A'THE
STREETS IS... RUN
LIKE HELL ANYTIME
YA GOT TH' CHANCE!

SAVE ME! PLEASE!!
SAVE OL' CRAZY JULIUS...
AN' I SWEAH...I'LL BE
SANE FROM NOW ON!

OH, L'IL DARLIN'...!
YOU SHOULDDA SEEN
US!

BUT ALAS...
THE CREATURE
WAS JUST TOO
STRONG!

I CAN STILL HEAR
THE GALLANT LAD'S FINAL
WORDS ECHOING FROM
THAT CREATURE'S
AWESOME PIT...!

THERE WE WAS...
FIGHTIN' FO' OUR VERY
LIVES... TRYIN' T' PULL
OL' JULIUS OUTTA TH'
JAWS A' DEATH!

IT DOWNED OUR
GOOD BUT CRAZY
FRIEND IN ONE
MIGHTY GULP!

...TAKE CARE OF
M'L'IL DUMPLIN', ABLEMAR!
GIVE 'ER ALL M' LOVE!"

AN' THEN THE
CREATURE BELCHED!

SO Y'SEE DOLL...
WE'S HERE IN MEMORY
A' JULIUS HISSELF!

NOW SHOULDN'T WE
GIT DOWN T' THE LOVIN'
PART AN' HONOR THE
DEARLY DEPARTED'S
LAST REQUEST...!?

YOU DO AN' YOU'LL BE
MAKIN' A LAST REQUEST
A'YER OWN, POPCORN!

J-J-JULIUS!?

HEY! WOW!
Y-YOU GOT OUTTA
THAT CREATURE,
HUH?!

IN-CREDIBLE!
GOOD THAVE YA BACK,
MAN!

WELL...UH...U...UH
GOTTA BOOGY NOW, M'MAN!
SEE YA ROUND, HUH! BE
COOL!

BYE!

LISSEN, MAN...IT
HASNT BEEN A TOTAL
LOSS, Y'KNOW!

WE STILL GOT
SOME NIFTY BOOTY
FROM THET HEIST!

NIFTY, YEAH
BUT WHAT IS IT?

AND WHAT BUGS
ME MORE, WHAT WAS
THAT PEA POD
CREATURE?

AN' WHERE DID IT
COME FROM? I AIN'T
NEVER SEEN NOTHING
LIKE IT THIS SIDE'A
125TH STREET!

COMMAND CALLING
AGENT Z-15!
COME IN Z-15!

OH LAWD!
NOW WHAT?
THE SCREEN
O' THIS THINGS
LIGHTIN' UP!

REPEAT! AGENT
Z-15! DUE TO
CARELESSNESS,
YOUR COVER IS
BLOWN!

ABANDON
MISSION AND
RETURN
IMMEDIATELY!

THAT'S THE
LAST TIME WE
EVER LET YOU
TAKE A PET
WALNARK ON A
MISSION,
POPCORN!

CONDTION
RED! ABANDON
INFILTRATIONARY
TACTICS!

LORRR?
AH DONT
BELIEVE
IT!

CAPTAIN
VIDEO'S BEEN
T' HARLEM!

OVER AND
OUT!

YEAH... BUT IT'S
TOO BAD HE DIDN'T
STAY, MAN...

...I GOT A FEELIN'
WE'RE GONNA BE
NEEDIN' 'IM!

STAR WARS FLYING MODEL ROCKETRY

STAR WARS



STAR WARS FLYING MODEL ROCKETRY OUTFIT A hobby kit-not a toy! It is not for those under 12. Battery & glue not included. Assemble and launch Luke's Torpedo! #24201/\$12.95

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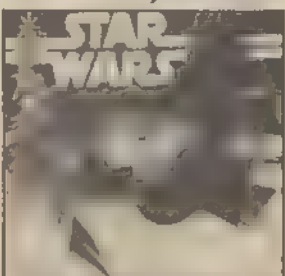


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R2-D2 MODEL KIT When he is constructed, R2-D2 stands 8" high with a moveable head and legs. A must for fans! #24187/\$4.50

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C-3PO MODEL KIT The golden 'droid stands a full 10" tall when built. His body bends at the waist and his arms move. #24188/\$4.50

X-WING FIGHTER MODEL KIT Easy-to-build.



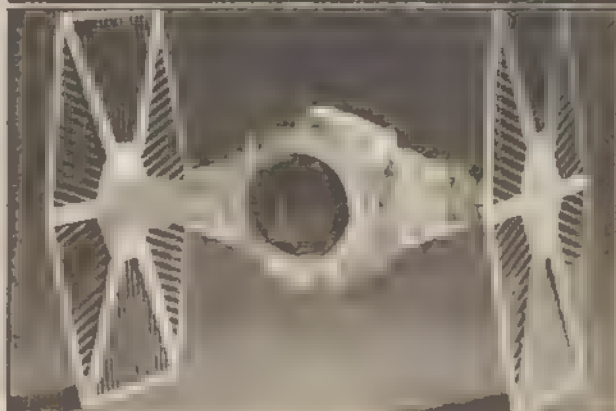
LUKE SKYWALKER X WING FIGHTER MODEL KIT Sleek & savage! Here is the rebel ship which Luke piloted when he attacked Death Star. 12" from its nose to rear. 10" wingspan. The X-Wings move from hold to combat ready. #24189/\$5.50

LUKE SKYWALKER'S EXCITING LANDSPEEDER VEHICLE Comes assembled. 8 1/2" long. 1 1/2" high.



LUKE SKYWALKER'S EXCITING LANDSPEEDER VEHICLE An authentic replica of Luke's desert roadster. The hood opens for access to the engine and a shift lever releases the spring loaded wheels which simulates floating ride. Passenger compartment can carry Action Figures. Fantastic! #24187/\$7.50

TIE FIGHTER SPACE CRAFT Comes assembled. 14" long. 12" high.



TIE FIGHTER SPACECRAFT Used by Darth Vader. The cockpit opens to allow an Action Figure to be seated. Solar panels may be ejected simulating battle damage and for defense the fighter has a laser light and emits a whining laser sound you control! Imperial! #24188/\$15.95



X-WING FIGHTER 9" long x 9" wide. Already fully assembled.

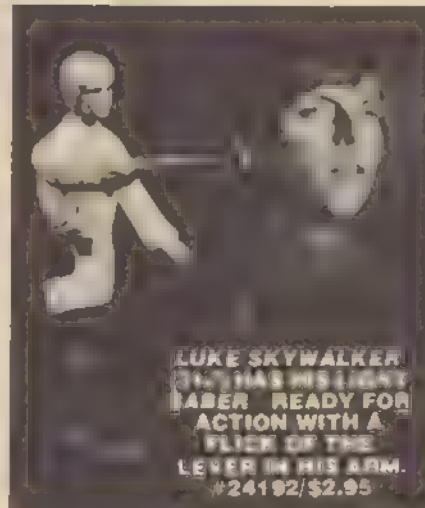
X-WING FIGHTER Push down R2-D2's head, permanent navigator, and the wings open to combat position. The rear button engages the laser and sound. The cockpit canopy allows for figure placement. So the Rebel Action Figure might be seated in the fighter. A perfect spacecraft for destroying Death Star or for a battle with Darth Vader's deadly Tie Fighter. Amazing Buy! #24189/\$15.95

STAR WARS

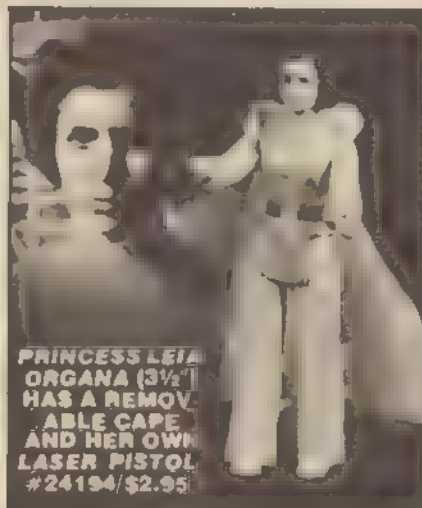
ACTION FIGURES

ALREADY ASSEMBLED!

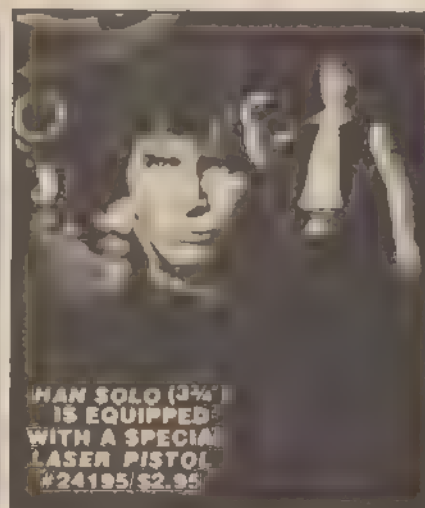
Nine exciting action figures, all in their authentic STAR WARS costumes. All have movable arms and legs designed for action poses. Set up a tabletop STAR WARS!



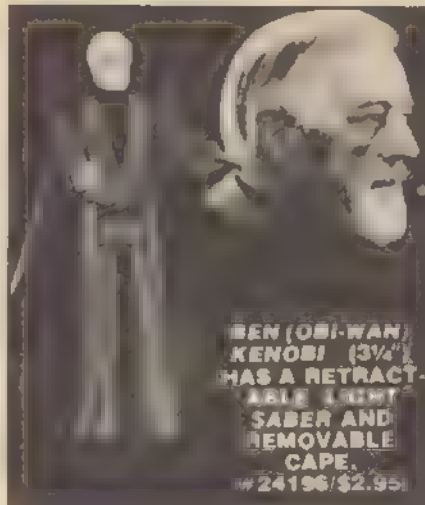
LUKE SKYWALKER
(3 1/2") HAS HIS LIGHT
SABER READY FOR
ACTION WITH A
FLICK OF THE
LEVER IN HIS ARM.
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ORGANA** (3 1/2")
HAS A REMOV-
ABLE CAPE
AND HER OWN
LASER PISTOL.
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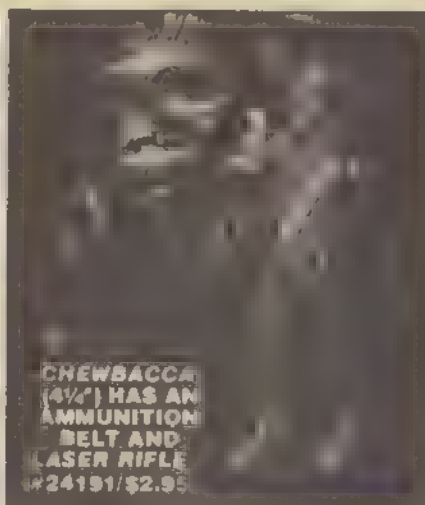
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IS EQUIPPED
WITH A SPECIAL
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SABER AND
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CAPE.
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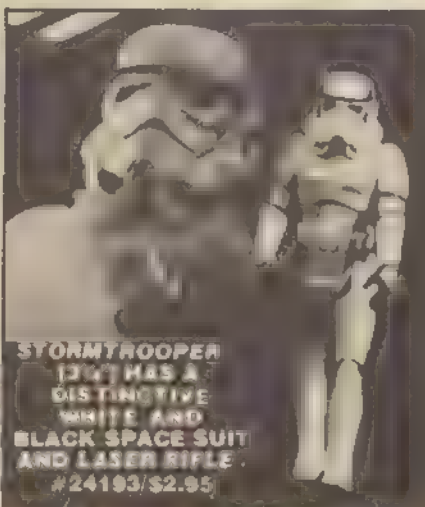
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AMMUNITION
BELT AND
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AND IS ARTIC-
ULATED AT
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HAS MOVABLE
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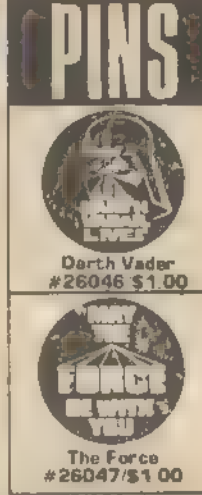
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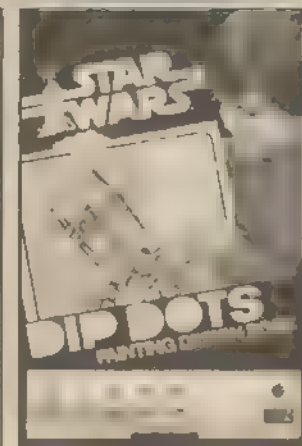
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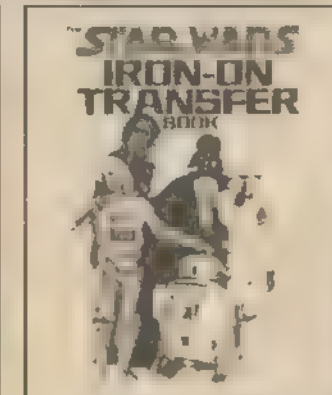
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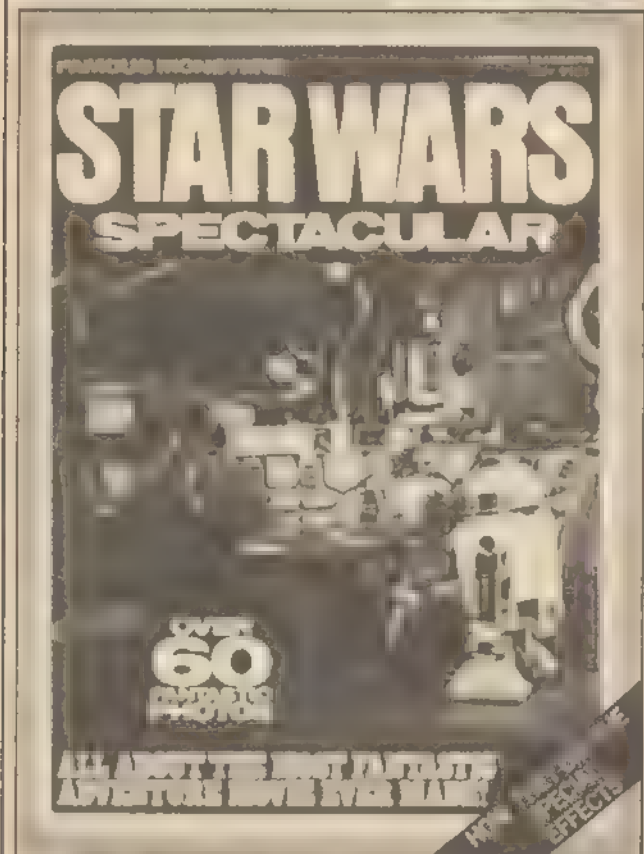
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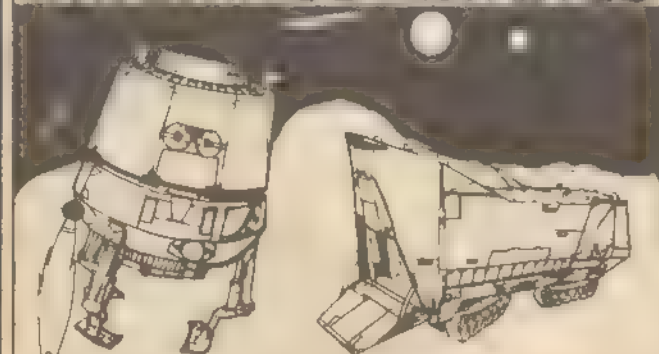
A GALAXY OF STAR WARS ITEMS...

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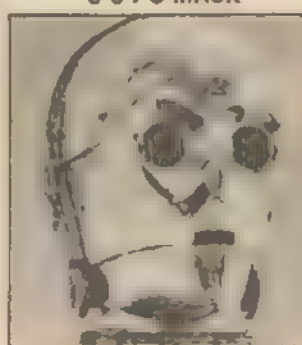


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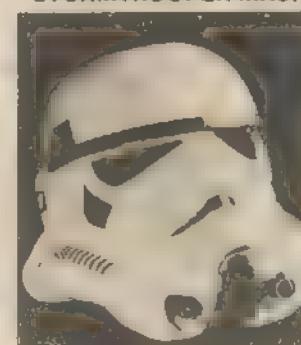
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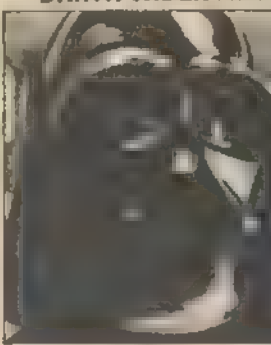
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CHEWBACCA MASK

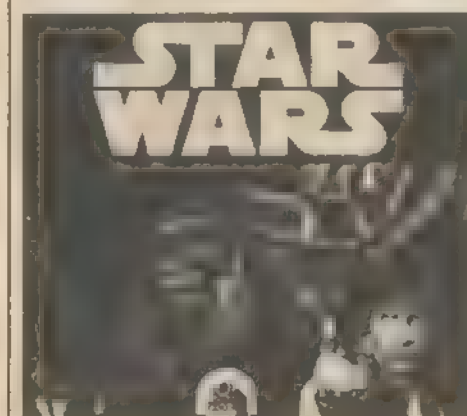


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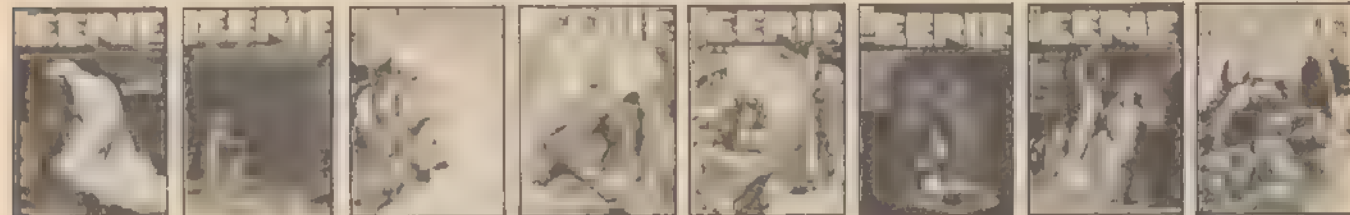
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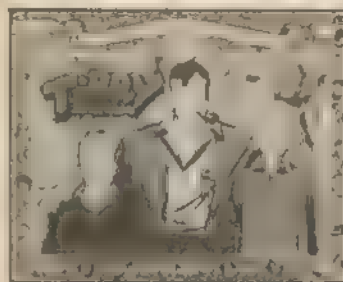


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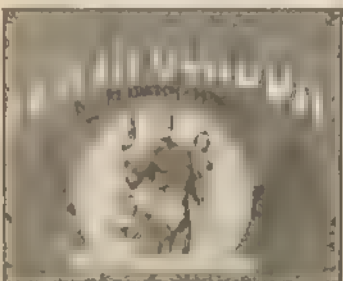
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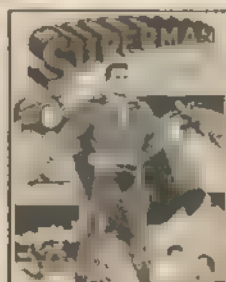
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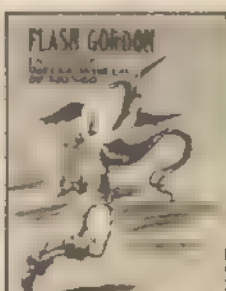
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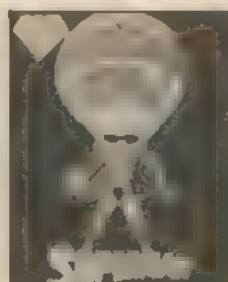
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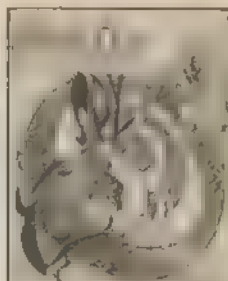
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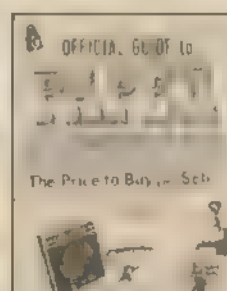
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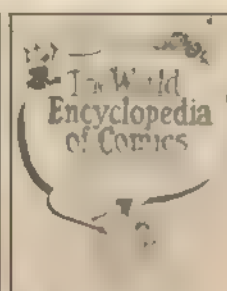
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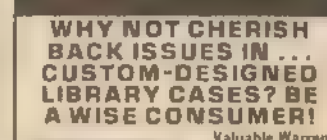
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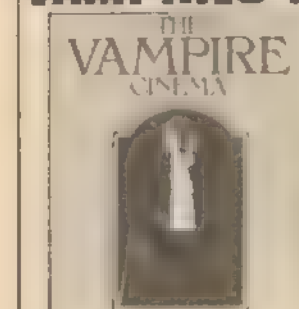


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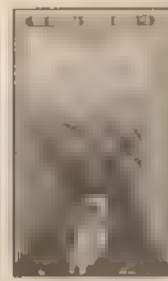
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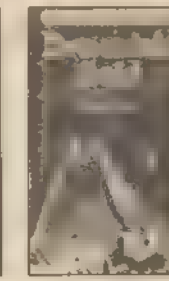
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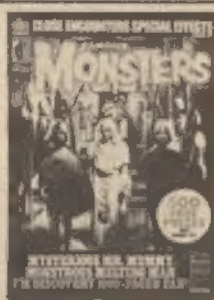
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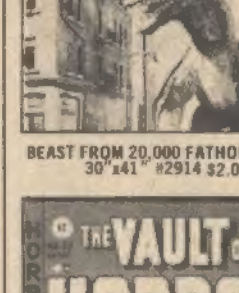
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Be careful of this vicious fiend! This unusual creature is half bone... Half bandage... And all blood curdling terror! You must be strong to sit still while watching this terrifying flick! Do you dare buy it? Prove yourself! Choose either: Super or regular 8 Color #22050/\$19.95. Or in B&W in Super or regular 8. #22047/\$9.95

THE VAMPIRE AND THE BALLERINA



This is one of the strangest of all the Vampire films that were ever produced! Here is the strange truth... The Undead infest not only one—but all of the finest houses in Europe! Believe it! The Old World will never be the same after these creatures are finished with it! 200 ft. reels in Super or regular 8. B&W #2275/\$9.95

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE SPACE MONSTER



Frankenstein is a many faceted fellow... In this movie an Astro-robot created by an American scientist suffers mechanical damages and becomes Frankenstein-like! He is put to the challenge—The weird Space Monsters! Warning beware their stare! Who is the real hero? 200 ft. reel B&W. Super & regular 8. Buy #2280/\$9.95

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE



Can this really be possible? What will be the outcome? A strange planet appears suddenly in Earth's telescopes and it is going to crash—smack into our planet Earth! The scientists must act fast this time—Everyone is in a mad-chaotic state! Don't miss this film classic! In super 8mm only—Black and White. Order #22014/\$9.95

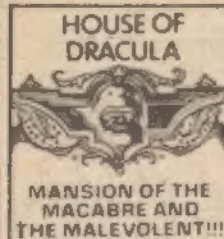
WAR OF THE WORLDS



An H.G. Wells' classic science-fiction thriller. This Black and White movie is a Hell-spawned tale of a grandiose Martian invasion! No science-fiction fan alive should miss this epic. From space. They are reaching for you! Order your 200 ft. reel today. Available in Super 8 mm film only. Hurry—waste no time! #22015/\$9.95

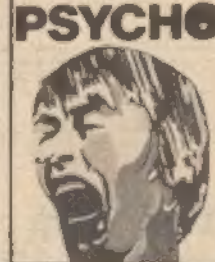
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In this brilliant shocker the legendary Count Dracula is portrayed, with sinister bravado, by the great character actor, John Carradine. As if he wasn't enough, included in the guest list: Frankenstein's monster & the Wolfman, played by Lon Chaney, Jr. The three clash in one of film's most exciting battles! View this great film in B&W. Super 8 only. #22084/\$9.95

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We are not in Transylvania but rather in the mystic land of Egypt. Here is where the bandaged ghoul hangs out... Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead—or is he in fact—breathing through those bandages? Come a bit closer and see for yourself! B&W in regular 8mm #2229/\$9.95

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Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived! You can view this film in the privacy of your own home... and scream to your heart's content. Super and regular 8 film in Black and White. Order #2234/\$9.95

DR. X



This daring movie was one of the most elusive of all the major horror films of the early 1930's. With its great visual style, this film stresses shadowy effects, sharp and angular images. Don't end up in this weird Dr.'s laboratory. You might never get out! Be sure to order Super or regular 8 film. Black & White #2272/\$9.95

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Would you believe a giant mollusk of vaguely lobster like appearance? Having been at the bottom of the sea for billions of years... he finally surfaces for a breather—and some food... None other than human blood! Then it's the U.S. Navy to the rescue! Have you any doubt of the outcome? A Black & White film. Super & reg. 8 #2274/\$9.95

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It must eat you to live! You will be amazed at the size of this beast! It's hard to fight back against fifty tons of ugly—creeping black horror! An entire brigade tries its best to stop the spider. Action galore! A Black and White fantasy-film-frenzy. Don't waste time in ordering! Super or regular 8mm film. Specify #2276/\$9.95

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Nothing so frightful has ever been seen! He is the two hundred foot horror from the Earth's beginning... Burning the human race with its hell fire... Crushing everything that is in its shadowy path. This is surely one angry creature! Be sure to specify either Super or regular 8 in Black and White. Hurry—order #2277/\$9.95

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Who dares to do battle against a 500 foot radioactive, fire-breathing, green lizard? Only the Thing! This war of the giants is one—not to be missed... The armies of the world see it... try to stop it... and are destroyed in their meager efforts! A real hair-raising thriller! Black & White, Super and regular 8mm #2278/\$9.95

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You will be the first... The very first Earthling to see what is actually happening on the second planet from our sun! One of man's most exciting, most incredible film journeys. Enjoy this wonderful movie... Plus on the same reel... Preview attractions! See it in Black and White—Super or regular 8—Buy it today #2279/\$9.95

GHIDRAH



Three heads are better than one... For this tri-headed creature, anyway. This beast is unreal! He cannot be destroyed by any weapon known to man! Where does this monster evolve from? A soaring meteor! Soaring into your home in a Black and White movie. Either Super or regular 8mm film. Order yours today and specify #2281/\$9.95

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The three headed beast comes face to face to face... with Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra! They are called upon to defend their home planet from the fire breathing baddie from beyond the Stratosphere. Action-packed scenes! Don't dare miss this fantasy movie! Super 8mm. Black and White. Order now! #2282/\$9.95

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How would you like to be marooned in outer space? This is the movie saga of Ironman One (a space vehicle) and its passengers. A fine science fiction film for everybody! Choose from: Super or regular 8 Color film #22052/\$19.95 Or a Black and White version in Super or regular 8. #22051/\$9.95. Both are really fantastic flicks!

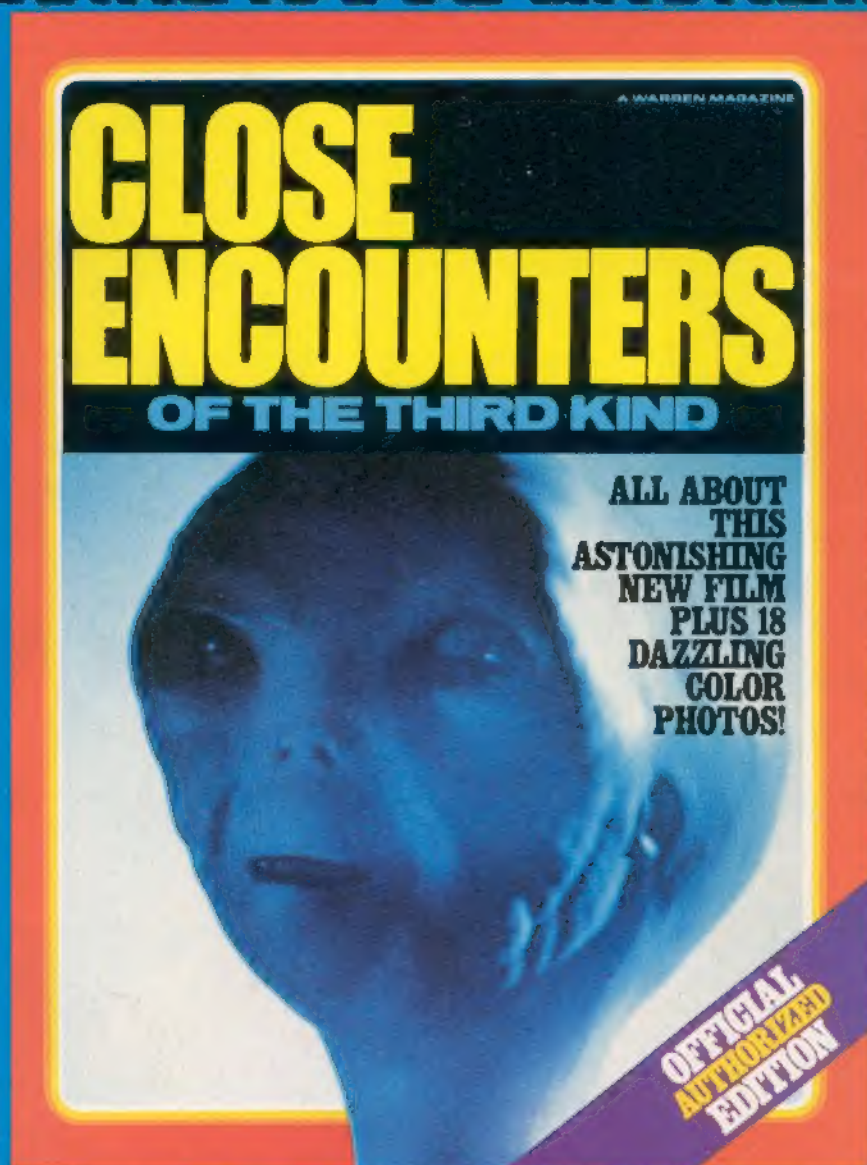
MONSTER FROM A PREHISTORIC PLANET



A giant octopus and an entire family of winged flying griffin-type lures have the country of Japan in an uproar with terror and complete destruction! Their tremendous powers were unbelievable when teamed together! How do all of the people escape from their horrible fates? Available in Super 8 film only. B&W #22068/\$9.95

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